Blago cohort gets 10½ years *7*
Marilyn's hips don't lie *32*
Make it a mall-nighter *54*

GET BASTED @ redeyechicago.com

red eye

Wednesday
NOVEMBER 23, 2011

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

LENNY GILMORE/ REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

BEER GOBBLES

BLACK WEDNESDAY'S BACK—JUST DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD *20-21*

BY MARGARET SMITH | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

EATS ON THE CHEAP

Table Fifty-Two
52 W. Elm St. 312-573-4000

A single entree at Art Smith's Southern hot spot normally would cost you up to $36, but dinner just got more affordable with the new Southern Supper series featuring family-style meals. Stop in Wednesday for chicken and dumpling soup, braised pork shoulder and sweet potato bread pudding. 5-6 p.m. $35 for all three dishes.

WINTER FARMER'S MARKET

FREE **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**
2430 N. Cannon Drive 773-880-1266

Scared to brave the supermarket Wednesday for your Thanksgiving goods? You should be. Instead, head to the Green City Market, which has moved under a heated tent, and pick up fresh produce, artisanal cheese, poultry and more from 30 vendors. At 10:30 a.m., you can watch Frontera/Topolobampo Rick Bayless create a dish using seasonal ingredients. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday.

DO

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS

State Street between Congress Parkway and Randolph Street
500 S. State St. 312-235-2217

FREE Celebrate Turkey Day with marching bands, balloons, floats, **St. Nick** and more at the 78th annual McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade. 8-11 a.m. Thursday.

TRIBUNE FILE

OH TANNENBAUM

Daley Plaza
50 W. Washington St. 312-744-3315

FREE We know Thursday is Thanksgiving, but that doesn't mean we can't at least be a little excited for Christmas, right? Head to the Loop on Wednesday for the 98th annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, where this year's tree—a 55-foot Colorado Spruce from Western Springs, Ill.—shows its stuff. Music begins at 4:30 p.m., with the switch flipped a half an hour later.

DRINK

WHERE ARE ALL THE PARTIES?

Don't worry, we didn't forget. Head to **Page 20-21** for a full report on the best bashes for the annual "blackout" party night.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY Need to make last-minute turkey day plans? Metromix has you covered at **chicago.metromix.com/thanksgiving**.

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redeyechicago.com

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TREE TIME

M-RAHM'S READY TO LIGHT IT UP

Chicago Tribune

Chicago's first Jewish mayor will flip the switch during the 98th annual tree lighting ceremony in Daley Plaza on Wednesday.

But unlike Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who recently insisted on calling the Wisconsin State Capitol's evergreen a "Christmas tree," Mayor Emanuel intends to refer to the towering Tannenbaum at the city's center as a "holiday tree," spokeswoman Tarrah Cooper said.

When asked why it was important for the mayor to light the tree, Emanuel cited the holiday season as a time for people across Chicago to come together, Cooper said.

The 55-foot Colorado spruce from southwest suburban Western Springs will feature 5,800 multicolored LED lights and a five-pointed star perched on the top.

Former Mayor Richard M. Daley usually lit what he called the Christmas tree—and as it was still referred to on the city website Tuesday—along with a celebrity guest, Daley spokeswoman Jackie Heard said. He will not attend Wednesday's festivities, she said.

The city has issued permits this year for a variety of holiday displays in Daley Plaza—both secular and religious, including a Santa house, a Nativity scene and a menorah. In the past, an Islamic star and crescent also shared the plaza, but no application for those was received this year.

Emily Soloff, associate director for interreligious and intergroup relations for the American Jewish Committee, commended the mayor's decision and rationale for lighting the tree.

"Those for whom it isn't a religious symbol relate to it for the symbol of happiness and joy that we all as Chicagoans can experience this season," Soloff said. "That adds to our civic pride and our feelings of being a community that we all share in a part of this season."

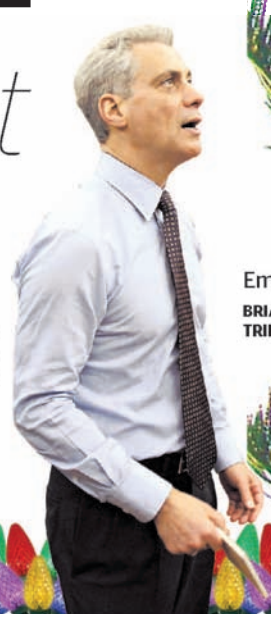
KNOW YOUR SPRUCE

55 feet

Height of the Colorado spruce from southwest suburban Western Springs

5,800

Number of multicolored LED lights



Emanuel

BRIAN CASSELLA/ TRIBUNE

Some passengers need a timeout

Connie Reyes
» redeye@tribune.com

Happy Thanksgiving! Time to pack those unflattering sweaters Great Aunt Mary gave you and head home to [insert random Midwest location here] for the holidays. And unless you've mastered the skills of teleportation, you will most likely be heading to O'Hare or Midway along with the rest of the city in the next several weeks.

Good luck. You'll need it.

On a recent flight, I found myself contemplating the actions of my fellow travelers. There was something askew—yet still familiar—about their behavior. But after spending 10 hours on a trans-Atlantic flight with them, it hit me. Despite the fact that the majority of passengers were in fact adults, a lot of childish behavior was happening all around me. There was screaming, there was tattling on line-cutters ... there was even a pouty lady who was about to lie on the ground and kick her legs in the air while crying if she didn't get a Diet Coke soon. (OK, that lady was me.)

It was when I reached the edge of a full-on temper tantrum that I realized this: Traveling on an airplane turns adults into kindergartners.

It starts before you even get on the plane. You're waiting in the terminal, and the gate attendant explains in plain English the process for boarding. Yet no matter the instructions, everyone flocks to the entrance, creating chaos and confusion. You can almost hear the mental cries of anguish as first-class passengers take their seats. "Unfair! I wanna go first. How come he gets to go now?"

This is just the beginning. As the flight attendants give what is possibly the most important speech you will hear on your journey, better known as the HOW TO MAYBE POSSIBLY IF YOU'RE SMART, SAVVY AND LUCKY SURVIVE A CRASH speech, you see your comrades instead ignoring the survival tips by turning on the air vent or staring you down because you mistakenly put your kneecap next to theirs. Apparently knowing how to follow directions is not a prerequisite for boarding a plane.

Then, as soon as the plane reaches cruising altitude, the bathroom line fills the aisle. Does cabin pressure shrink everyone's bladder to the size of a 5-year-old's? We should all be thankful pilots don't make their passengers wait until they reach the next town like my dad used to do on family vacations.

Airlines have intelligently caught on to this kindergarten paradox and brilliantly supply some flights with the tantrum-preventing "snack time." Never mind the fact that most of the passengers were stuffing their faces at the airport Chili's a mere hour ago. As soon as those carts come down the aisle, you would think their mommies forgot to give them Cocoa Puffs for breakfast. Fortunately, snack time usually occupies the little devils long enough to reach the final destination.

So it goes without saying that in order to survive the holiday horror travel scene, we should follow the rules we learned in kindergarten: Share your toys, listen and be polite. And never sit next to the kid with the wet pants.

CONNIE REYES IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

DAILY DEBATE

SEASON'S GREETINGS

'Christmas' or 'holiday'?

After hearing that Mayor Emanuel will call the Daley Plaza tree a "holiday tree" (story on **Page 3**), we asked RedEye's columnists: In a public space, is it a Christmas tree or a holiday tree?

It's a holiday tree. We don't all recognize the same God. Where's the diversity in faith?
—**Lenox Magee**

"O Holiday Tree, O Holiday Tree, you fill our hearts with ..." Nah, doesn't work.
—**John Giokaris**

That's like asking: Is it a Christmas nativity or holiday farm scene?
—**Ana Fernatt**

Christmas. Political correctness is always sucking the fun out of Secular Gift-Giving Day.
—**Stephen Markley**

STATUS UPDATE

For the record, they "like" it for the articles. Playboy is by far the most "liked" magazine on Facebook, **foliomag.com** reported Tuesday, based on data from MagazineRadar. Here are the Top 5 magazines on Facebook, based on "like" data collected Monday.

1. **5.6 million** *Playboy*
2. **2.2 million** *Food Network Magazine*
3. **1.8 million** *Vogue*
4. **1.6 million** *Cocking with Paula Deen*
5. **1.3 million** *People*

WHERE'S REDEYE?

Is your favorite RedEye box empty? Don't get mad—get on your phone. Use the hashtag **#wheres redeye** and post a pic of the empty box and its location on Twitter or Instagram. Our team is watching—because nobody should be deprived of a daily RedEye.

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chicago

WEDNESDAY 48 37 Cheers!

TURKEY DAY 56 45 Chow down!

FRIDAY 57 51 Shop on!

Tony Rezko's attorney, Joe Duffy, speaks to reporters Tuesday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse after Rezko was sentenced to prison. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

More than a decade

Rezko gets 10½ years in sentencing that should worry Blagojevich

Chicago Tribune

Even before his long-awaited sentencing began Tuesday, Antoin "Tony" Rezko's teenage daughter appeared anxious, her arms clutching her stomach and her face already in a pained expression.

Two hours later, when a judge sentenced Rezko, once a top adviser to former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, to 10½ years in prison, his daughter, Chanelle, broke down in sobs and collapsed into her mother's arms.

The sentence—one of the toughest ever handed out in the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse for a public corruption conviction—would appear to be bad news for Blagojevich, who is scheduled to be sentenced in two weeks by a different judge.

"Blagojevich could not have been happy when he heard the prison time that Rezko will serve," former federal prosecutor Jeffrey Cramer said. "He could reasonably get 12 to 15 years in prison."

About 40 relatives and friends attended Rezko's sentencing to show their support. At times during the hearing, some bowed their heads or placed their hands over their hearts.

In brief comments to U.S. District Court Judge Amy St. Eve, Rezko apologized and spoke of the guilt and shame he felt for what he has put his family through.

"I come to ask for God's forgiveness and the court's mercy," a pale and thin Rezko said.

But St. Eve was not swayed, saying that "the sentence will send a message that enough is enough."

Prosecutors portrayed Rezko, 56, as a key member of Blagojevich's "kitchen cabinet" who exercised influence over the appointments made by the governor to state boards and commissions. In return, he expected campaign contributions to be made to Blagojevich, the government alleged.

A jury convicted him in 2008 of using his clout with Blagojevich and scheming with Stuart Levine, a longtime Republican political insider, to extort millions of dollars from firms who were seeking state business or regulatory approval.

Then, in October 2010, Rezko pleaded guilty to a separate federal fraud charge over the bogus sale of his pizza restaurants. He still is to be sentenced for that conviction.

BLAGO UP NEXT

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 6 by U.S. District Judge James Zagel, who has made his disdain for the former governor's antics obvious. Blagojevich was convicted of lying to the FBI in his first trial last year and then a second jury found him guilty last summer on sweeping corruption charges.

3 FOR ALL

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Turkey Day traditions

A look at the holiday rituals slated for Thursday in Chicago and beyond, according to surveys by **allrecipes.com** and **foodnetwork.com.**

16 percent

Percentage of respondents from the Chicago area who are new or beginner Thanksgiving cooks this year.

10 percent

Percentage of respondents to another survey who say they used to host Thanksgiving, but aren't this year.

47

Median age of those who have given up hosting Thanksgiving. TRIBUNE

EXPRESS LINES

» Shares of Groupon tumbled Tuesday, closing at their lowest point since the Chicago-based daily deals company went public more than two weeks ago at $20. Groupon dropped $3.51, or nearly 15 percent, to close at $20.07.

» An 81-year-old Cicero woman was pronounced dead Tuesday after being struck by a vehicle in Peterson Park on the Northwest Side, officials said.

» A motor vehicle accident resulted in nine people being hospilized for their injuries, officials said. The accident happened at about 3 p.m. at North and Merrimac avenues in Galewood on the northwest side. TRIBUNE

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New tent city

Pastor Corey Brooks (right) gets help from a member of his New Beginnings Church as he sets up camp Tuesday on the roof of the abandoned Super Motel at 6625 S. King Drive. Brooks plans to stay on top of the motel for 21 days to raise $450,000 so the church can buy the building, tear it down and build a community and economic center in its place. BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

CTA assault investigated

Chicago Tribune

Chicago police have issued alerts to districts throughout the city in their search for a man caught on video being punched at the Chicago Avenue Red Line stop.

The victim, who may be homeless, was knocked to the ground by a younger man who had followed him, tapped him on the shoulder and sucker-punched him as others joked and laughed.

Chicago police News Affairs Officer Robert Perez said the incident continues to be an "active investigation." Police are seeking the man who was hit to see if he wants to pursue charges.

The assault occurred in April, but the video has only recently surfaced on the Internet.

The video, posted at **worldstarhiphop.com**, shows a man in a tan coat moving among people on the southbound subway platform as a group of youths joke and laugh. One of the youths starts following the man, turning around and smiling as his friends whoop and laugh.

The youth, dressed in a black vest, then appears to tap the man to get his attention. When the man turns around, the two appear to exchange a few words before the youth suddenly strikes him on the side of the head.

The older man falls on his back so hard his hat flies off, according to the video. The youth and his friends board a waiting train as a woman kneels down and touches the man and makes a phone call.

Police and paramedics were called to the station and the older man was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released, according to police.

Pregnant woman gets lift in nick of time

Chicago Tribune

Emergency workers were almost too late Tuesday morning when they responded to a call of a stranded auto with both a flat tire and a female passenger in labor on the Eisenhower Expressway.

These kind of stories usually end with the birth of a baby on a road shoulder, but in this case an Illinois Department of Transportation crew was able to get the car moving again in time for the woman to get to a hospital and deliver a son, authorities said.

Illinois State police received a call just before 12:30 a.m. about a car with a flat tire stopped on the inbound Eisenhower near Independence Boulevard, officials said.

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GETTY IMAGES

Another day, another mess for Netflix

1 Netflix dropped a double bomb late Monday: The company now expects to lose money for all of 2012, and it is looking to raise cash in a secondary offering of its stock.

Netflix warned in its last earnings report that it expects to be unprofitable "for a few quarters" starting at the beginning of 2012. The primary culprit is Netflix's pricey plan to expand its streaming video service into Europe, but a wave of subscribers jumping ship hasn't helped.

Shares of Netflix closed 5.4 percent lower Tuesday.

Obama: Save tax cut

2 President Obama challenged Congress on Tuesday to vote next week to save an expiring payroll tax cut, a day after a high-profile effort to tackle deficits collapsed in acrimony.

Child porn sentence

3 A judge has sentenced an Indiana man to 315 years in federal prison for producing and distributing worldwide pornographic images of children under the age of 4 in a case described as one of the largest of its kind in state history.

Military seizes $15.3M

4 Mexico's military has seized more than $15.3 million in cash from a vehicle in the border city of Tijuana, authorities said Tuesday. In addition to the money, troops also found jewelry and packages of cocaine in the vehicle, the attorney general's office said in a statement.

RIOTS ROCK EGYPT

An injured protester hangs spent police tear gas canisters around his neck Tuesday during clashes with Egyptian officers near Tahrir Square in Cairo. REUTERS

5 **CAIRO** Egypt's military-led government Tuesday denied using violence against protesters and said the resignation of the country's Cabinet has been accepted, although members will remain until a new government is formed.

"We never fired one bullet against any Egyptian," Supreme Council of the Armed Forces Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi said in a speech. "Our first goal from the start of the transitional phase was to restore security in the streets."

Tantawi spoke on the fourth straight day of protests and clashes in Cairo and beyond, in which more than 30 people have died and almost 2,000 have been injured, the Health Ministry said.

Egypt's Interior Ministry said Monday that 102 officers and conscripts have been injured, with wounds ranging from gunshots to burns from Molotov cocktails. One officer was shot in the head.

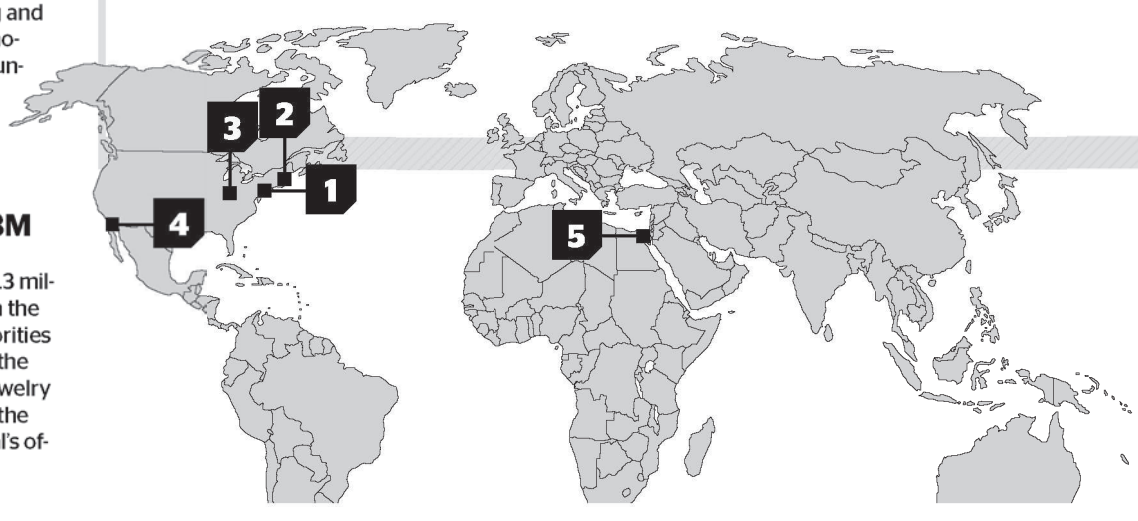
The nation's Cabinet offered to resign Monday, with one minister citing concern over the violence in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Tantawi said that resignation is accepted, but the current government will remain as a caretaking body until a new prime minister is named to form a new government.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces began leading the country after protesters ousted former President Hosni Mubarak in February. Tantawi did not announce any changes to the Supreme Council's role.

He emphasized that the Supreme Council is committed to a transition to a civilian authority and said elections will be held on time.

AMERICAN STUDENTS ARRESTED

Three American college students were being held Tuesday, possibly in a Cairo courthouse, accused of lobbing Molotov cocktails during the unrest gripping Tahrir Square, authorities and family members said.



THE DIGIT

$200

LCD TV prices will fall to their lowest levels ever this Black Friday, as TV manufacturers try to use bargains to revive struggling sales. According to market research firm DisplaySearch, 32-inch LCD TVs will be offered at or below $200.

ICED AND READY

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Garnish
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3	Fresh raspberries
1	Sage leaf

Garnish
Raspberry
Cranberry
Sage leaf

Muddle three raspberries and sage leaf in an un-iced shaker. Add other ingredients and top with ice. Shake vigorously. Pour into a chilled martini glass. Garnish with sage leaf and berries.

4 Rebels Vodka is made with 100-percent Iowa corn and distilled in the U.S.A.
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sports

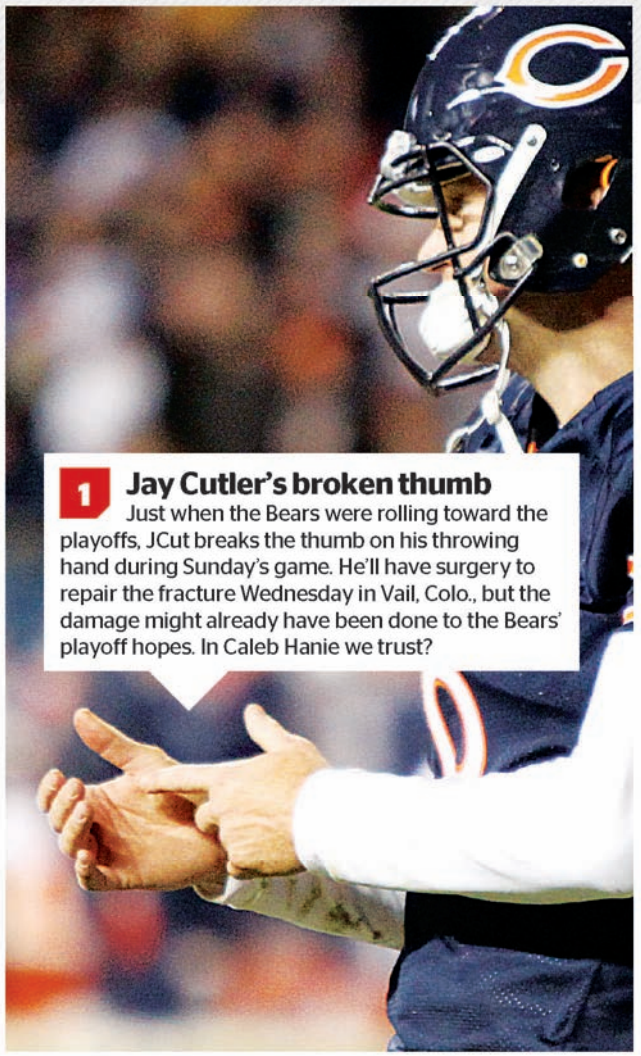
Not-so-total recall

On Blackout Wednesday, there are five sports happenings we'd like to forget

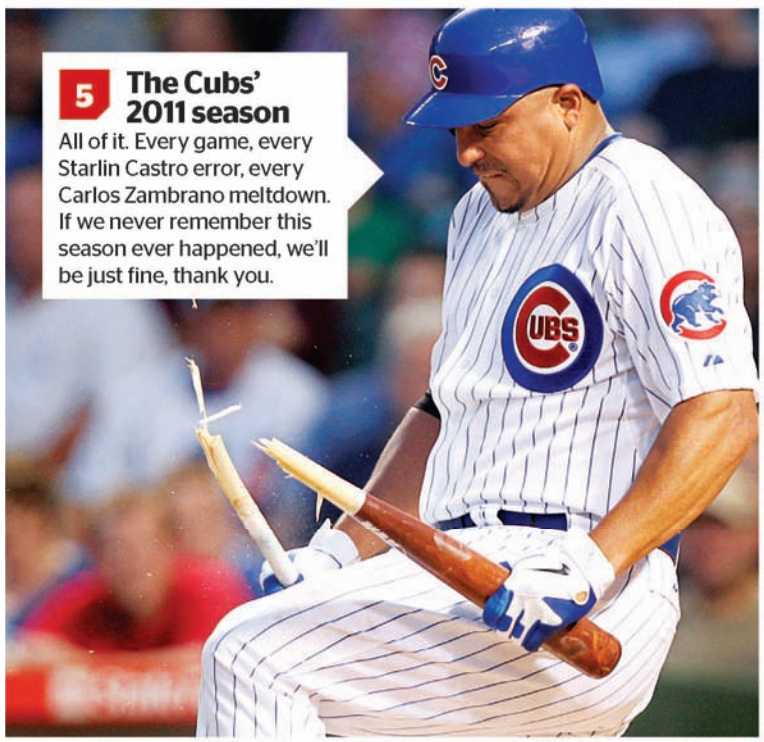
By Brian Moore | REDEYE

Welcome to Blackout Wednesday, sports fans. The day we all return to our hometown roots, drink ourselves into oblivion and wake up Thanksgiving morning with no recollection of what happened the night before.

Well, at least that's what I do. While you're trying to piece together the events of the night before as you choke down dry turkey and stuffing, count your blessings if your alcohol-fueled celebration completely erased these terrible Chicago sports events from your memory.



1 Jay Cutler's broken thumb
Just when the Bears were rolling toward the playoffs, JCut breaks the thumb on his throwing hand during Sunday's game. He'll have surgery to repair the fracture Wednesday in Vail, Colo., but the damage might already have been done to the Bears' playoff hopes. In Caleb Hanie we trust?



5 The Cubs' 2011 season
All of it. Every game, every Starlin Castro error, every Carlos Zambrano meltdown. If we never remember this season ever happened, we'll be just fine, thank you.

2 The NBA lockout
This truly is a bummer to forget. The Bulls are one of the best teams in the league, with one of the best young players in the league in Derrick Rose, but Chicago doesn't get to reap the benefits of Rose, Joakim Noah and Co. thanks to the lockout. Settle this—stat.

4 The Blackhawks' 9-2 loss
The last time the Blackhawks played, they were absolutely drilled in Edmonton, 9-2. That's definitely a low point for the team this season and something we'd like to erase from our memories. Thankfully, there are about 60 more Blackhawks games this season, so this likely is just a bump in the road on the way to the Stanley Cup playoffs for the top team in the NHL.

3 January's NFC title game
If you forget this one, you won't have to live with the pain of watching Cutler go down with a leg injury, Hanie nearly leading a remarkable Bears comeback or Green Bay going on to win and advance to the Super Bowl. The freakin' Packers.

Fessing up about Cutler blockgate

Scott Bolohan
» redeyesports@tribune.com
» @scottbolohan

Dear Jay Cutler,

It was recently brought to my attention that you might have read a column I wrote earlier this year.

And to pretty much everyone alive's amazement, you acknowledged it, tweeting it was "completely false" and subsequently blocking RedEye on Twitter.

I never meant to hurt you. It was satire. Like Mark Twain books, Herman Cain and reality TV. It wasn't real. It was a joke. And frankly, you blocking RedEye over my column is funnier than anything I've ever written. So touchè, Jay. I said touchè. Just making sure you read it right.

So let me be the first to apologize. I'm sorry, Jay. I didn't mean for my column to offend you.

I admit, I didn't receive $200 to teach you how to play quarterback last summer. I would have done it for much, much less. Really, just an air-conditioned room would have worked. Furthermore, your quarterback rating this year is even slightly above average. I would be wrong to take credit for that type of improvement.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Think of the Pilgrims and Native Americans, Jay. If they could come together to put away their differences and share in the struggle of the New World for one night, maybe the starting quarterback for the Chicago Bears and a free daily commuter paper can find a way to achieve social media unity as well. I think there's an entire Charlie Brown special about this very scenario. Maybe you can even find it in your heart to let us follow your retweets of random fans begging you for one. It would mean a lot. That's all I'm asking.

To clear the air once and for all, we've never hung out. We've never even talked. And I certainly didn't teach you how to play quarterback better.

Because if I did, I would have taught you to not break your thumb at the most important part of the season.

SCOTT BOLOHAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

THE STARTING LINE » Blackhawks at San Jose, 9:30 p.m. CSN » Denver Broncos waive quarterback and ex-Bear Kyle Orton » Milwaukee Brewers left fielder Ryan Braun named NL MVP

fiveonfive MSG&DATA RATES MAY APPLY. TEXT **HELP** FOR HELP. TEXT **STOP** TO CANCEL. T&C'S AVAILABLE AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

txtable

CHEERS!

Order another round and root on your favorite panelist here by texting "**wed**" followed by the number next to your choice to **87708**.

Tracy Swartz
@tracyswartz
RedEye reporter
TEXT: 1

Ernest Wilkins
@REmixchicago
Chicago's wingman
TEXT: 2

Julie DiCaro
@juliedicaro
aeryssports.com/a-league-of-her-own
TEXT: 3

Soxman
@thesoxman72
Caped White Sox crusader
TEXT: 4

Brad Zibung
@the_heckler
Founder, theheckler.com
TEXT: 5

1 If Blackout Wednesday were a sporting event ...	... everything would taste like medal.	... you'd be talking to the love child of Bill Russell and the Harlem Globetrotters. (Hint: That means I'm good.)	... Kaner would be Babe Ruth.	... the White Sox would be looking for a door-buster deal to re-sign Mark Buehrle.	... it would be a discount beer night in Wrigley's bleachers.
2 What's the downside to the Blackhawks spending Thanksgiving in California?	The turkeys there get injected with botox.	John Scott won't be the enforcer during our Turkey Bowl game this year.	Tofurky. That stuff is wretched.	They will have to eat Ducks (Anaheim) instead of turkey.	Two-plus weeks of the circus in our town terrorizing kids and torturing animals.
3 So, are Jay Cutler and Kristin Cavallari engaged again or what?	Yeah, they're yawn again.	Better question: When is he going to unblock RedEye on Twitter? THE PEOPLE WANNA KNOW, CUT MONEY!	Don't say her name. That's what she wants. You're encouraging her!	He's not having surgery on his ring finger, so anything is possible.	I believe Kristin set this straight on Twitter with: "OMG!! I'm like totally not engaged to Cute Butt again (yet)."
4 What's Caleb Hanie thankful for?	To go from side dish to main course. Go for it, Caleb Cheney.	Being able to show what he's got. Kill that Orton talk, everyone. #TeamHanie	Thus far he has managed to escape dating a washed-up reality star.	Avoiding the holiday blitz while not getting stuffed by opposing defenses.	That Todd Collins isn't again standing between him and a chance at greatness and/or mediocrity.
5 What Chicago sports figure would make a good Muppets character?	Jo Noah. Who doesn't want to get felt up?	Kaner aka "Lil' Scrappy" aka "Animal."	Zambrano: Animal's South American cousin.	Paul Konerko could be Fozzie Bear as he draws a lot of "walka walka walkas."	Julius Peppers looks a little like Animal. And Soriano's like Fozzie because he's always smiling but no one's laughing.

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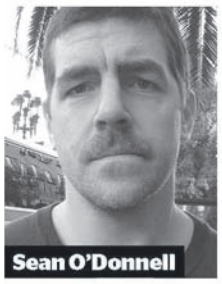
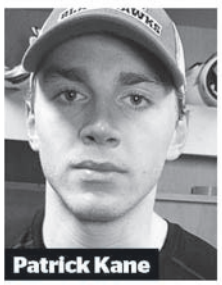
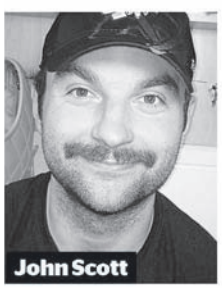
MOVEMBER
Movember is in full swing in the Blackhawks locker room, as the team grows mustaches to raise awareness and funds for men's health issues. Here is our third installment of some of the Blackhawks and their lip wigs.


Sean O'Donnell

Ray Emery


Patrick Kane

Steve Montador


John Scott

Home-court invasions

First Kenny Williams. What would happen where other athletes live?

RedEye
It's one of the weirdest sports stories we've heard in a while: Homeless man breaks into White Sox general manager Kenny Williams' townhouse, drinks beer, eats pizza, defrosts a lobster and uses the computer before leaving dressed in Williams' clothes and wearing his 2005 White Sox World Series ring.

Wayne L. Field III was arrested Monday and charged with residential burglary in connection the break-in that occurred over the weekend. Enough with that—now on to the fun stuff. RedEye wondered what might happen if other Chicago sports stars' homes were broken into. Here's what we imagined.

Joakim Noah
The suspect drinks Courvoisier from a pimp cup, wears Noah's seersucker suit around the house and scrawls "I love Cleveland" on the mirror before escaping with the Bulls star's "stash." Or 'stache.

Patrick Sharp
This burglary goes off course when the Blackhawk returns home and finds the suspect locked in a gaze with a photo of the so-handsome-it-hurts Sharp. It's like looking into Medusa's eyes.

Carlos Boozer
This burglary is over before it starts when the criminal mastermind trips over a gym bag on the floor of the entryway.

Jay Cutler
The Bears quarterback reports a massive loss of salmon-covered Bonobos.

A Cubs player
Nothing is taken. The burglar was looking for a World Series ring. (Thank you, **@theSoxman72**.)

ROSE IS MVP! DUH.
In GQ's Men of the Year issue, Bulls guard Derrick Rose is named the mag's MVP. This, of course, comes as no surprise to Bulls fans, who've watched Rose intently for three seasons now. Still, it's nice to see the hometown product get some national love. Next year, let's hope Rose is recognized for leading the Bulls to a title. If there is an NBA season, that is.

2011-12 VIRTUAL BULLS SEASON
Denver 89, Bulls 79
Chicago's five-game winning streak came to a screeching halt in Denver with a convincing win by the fast-breaking Nuggets. Carlos Boozer scored 30 points and grabbed 10 boards, but he didn't have much help from his Bulls teammates. Luol Deng inexplicably jacked up 11 3-pointers and hit only one of them. Nuggets center Nene dominated down low with 18 points and 12 rebounds.
Key stat: 18 percent—the Bulls' shooting percentage from the 3-point arc.
Record: 8-4.

THE DIGIT

5

Length in years of a labor agreement signed by Major League Baseball players and owners on Tuesday.

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HAPPY THANKS DRINKING

THE TURKEY'S NOT READY YET, SO PUT ON YOUR PARTY HAT FOR BLACK WEDNESDAY

By Emily Van Zandt
REDEYE

Chicagoans may be serving up a side of aspirin with their holiday meals Thursday night, judging by the number of Black Wednesday parties happening across the city.

Call it a Chicago tradition.

Dozens of spots will be dishing out drink specials and deals to entice students and old friends to toss back a few beers before family commitments the next day. The menu for the evening includes everything from events such as the hip-hop show at Reggie's in the South Loop to deals like the 50 percent off "Stranded Student" discount at Jack's Bar and Grill in Lakeview to specials like $5-PBR-and-a-whiskey-shot at Porkchop in the West Loop. Bars and restaurants are looking to do whatever they can to accommodate Black Wednesday partiers on what has been an unofficial drinking holiday in the city for years.

"Everybody knows they have the next day off and everyone is in that festive mindset—all they have to do the next day is eat," said Mark Domitrovich, owner of the Pioneer Tavern Group, which is hosting a Trolley Crawl between The Pony, Lotties Pub and Frontier. Like many events happening Wednesday, there's also a tie-in to a Blackhawks viewing party this year since the team is playing at 9:30 p.m.

But while the night tends to draw crowds, it's not always the group you want to see.

"One time I went out with my sister to this bar in Schaumburg and it was a weird mash of [high school classmates] trying not to make eye contact with each other," said Andrea Cordts, 27, of Lakeview. "It would be differ-

WHERE DOES IT STAND?

RedEye asked Gailin Kristofek, marketing and event manager for Chicago Sport and Social Club, to rank Black Wednesday in terms of bar holidays. It's in the Top 5, he said, alongside New Year's Eve, Halloween and major sporting events.

1. Halloween
2. New Year's Eve
3. St. Patrick's Day
4. Black Wednesday
5. Chicago team playoff games

PLYMOUTH ROCKIN'

Like a meal enjoyed between breakfast and brunch, Black Wednesday has staked its claim to the why-the-hell-not time between Halloween and New Year's Eve in the pantheon of Chicago drinking holidays. RedEye talked to bar owners to get an idea of scale in this by-the-numbers analysis of one of the booziest weekdays of the year. E.V.Z.

100 Number of champagne bottles expected to be sold at The Mid in the West Loop on Wednesday, according to manager Joey Giammarino.

The Mid
CHUAN D. VO FOR REDEYE

ent if you ... wanted to meet up with [good friends] for a reunion, but I think you have to plan it if you want it to go right."

So how big of a night is it? The crowd bump tends to be bigger for suburban bars than those in the city, according to Humberto Martinez, owner of Timothy O'Toole's. But city bars that throw events tend to see a crowd on Black Wednesday typical of a good Friday or Saturday night.

"Huge crowds everywhere," says Gailin Kristofek, events coordinator for the Chicago Sport and Social Club, which is hosting its annual Black Wednesday party at Deuce's and the Diamond Club in Wrigleyville. The club expects more than 300 people to show up for the event (larger than its typical bar parties, but smaller than Halloween or New Year's Eve turnouts), which is free.

"Not as crazy as Halloween, but it's the same energy with a lot of people."

"It's a good Wednesday—we plan for it to look and seem more like a Friday, like a good weekend crowd," said Mike Jettner, director of operations for John Barleycorn and Moe's Cantina. "New Year's Eve is completely different because it's an event and on Halloween people get dolled up in their costumes—[Black Wednesday] is like a good weekend bar night, but during the week."

For Tim Sarrantonio, 29, of Rogers Park, going out on Black Wednesday started as another excuse to drink when he was in college. Now he uses it as a night with other holiday orphans who don't make it home for Thanksgiving. His group gathers at Friar Tuck in Lakeview, throwing back some traditional Wild Turkey shots.

Put it this way, Sarrantonio said: "Thanksgiving is for families, Black Friday is for shoppers ... might as well give the drinkers hump day."

EVANZANDT@TRIBUNE.COM | @MMXBARS

BLACK WEDNESDAY PARTIES

TURKEY TESTICLE FESTIVAL
Timothy O'Toole's
622 N. Fairbanks Court. 312-642-0700
Fried turkey testicle specials, eating contest, $2 Miller Lite and Coors Light pints and more

BLACK WEDNESDAY TROLLEY CRAWL
Lotties Pub
1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738
Hop a ride between Lotties Pub, The Pony and Frontier for drink specials and live music

Black Wednesday at The Mid
306 N. Halsted St. 312-265-3990
DJs Chuckie and Nathan Scott spin. Bring a canned food item for free entry before 11 p.m.

TURKEY TROLLEY TROT
Various locations
Duffy's, Durkin's, Maeve, McGee's, Redmond's and Wrightwood Tap in Lincoln Park team up with transportation between the spots, drink specials, food and more

TURKEY TESTICLE FESTIVAL
D.S. Tequila Company
3352 N. Halsted St. 773-697-9127
Wash down the deep-fried organs with $12 Bud Light pitchers. Yum?

Black Wednesday at Moe's Cantina
3518 N. Clark St. 773-248-0002
$4 sangria glasses, DJ spins live

Black Wednesday at Deuce's and the Diamond Club
3505 N. Clark St., 773-644-5554
Hosted by Chicago Sport and Social Club, party features $3 Coors Light bottles, $5 Malibu Black cocktails, giveaways and more

» For more info on Black Wednesday parties go to **chicago.metromix.com/blackwed**.

50 lbs
Amount of turkey testicles organizers at Timothy O'Toole's in the Gold Coast are bringing in from a Wisconsin farm Wednesday for the bar's Turkey Testicle Festival, according to owner Humberto Martinez.

6 MONTHS
The amount of time Chicago Sport and Social Club has been planning its party at Deuce's and the Diamond Club, according to Gailin Kristofek of Chicago Sport and Social Club.

108.4
Highest proof of Wild Turkey, available in Wild Turkey Rare Breed Bourbon—especially appropriate pre-Thanksgiving.

16 GALLONS
The amount of sangria prepared for Moe's Cantina Black Wednesday party, according to Mike Jettner, director of operations.

36 NUMBER OF BLACK WEDNESDAY PARTIES LISTED ON **CHICAGO.METROMIX.COM/BLACKWED**

2,000
Number of people expected to participate in a six-bar Turkey Trolley Trot on Wednesday in Lincoln Park, according to Gillian Fraaf, events coordinator at Bar 1 Events. Stops at Duffy's, Durkin's, Maeve, McGee's, Redmond's and Wrightwood Tap.

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NIGHTCRAWLERS

SEEN ON THE SCENE AT ... THE SNUGGERY, 15 W. DIVISION ST.

On Saturday night, we squeezed into The Snuggery's new outpost in the Gold Coast, where we found a packed crowd checking out the UFC and one another. —CRAIG SEYMOUR

Krista Walker
30, business manager/ advertising

What brings you out tonight?
The UFC.

I think of the UFC as a "guy thing." What's the appeal for women?
Exactly, it's a guy thing. Why do you think I wanted to come out? More guys for me.

What are you drinking and why?
I was drinking watermelon margaritas, but now I'm drinking Oktoberfest, because I like a good, strong beer in the winter.

Kim Schelling
31, works in infection control

What brings you out tonight
We're just having a girls' night.

Do women have the equivalent of "wingmen"?
I don't know if women do the same thing, but we definitely have looks that we give each other if we want out of a situation. It's like a "please, help save me" look. Some guys don't get the hint, and then it becomes really awkward. You're just sitting there in silence. And then you give your girlfriend "the look," and that's when she says, "Oh, we have to go over here now."

Nick Glasper
32, works in construction

What brings you out tonight?
Girls.

Is this is a good place to find women?
All the time, every day.

What are you drinking and why?
Grey Goose, because I love vodka. It makes me feel good while I'm going to get the girls.

What's your best pickup line?
I don't have a pickup line. I just go with the flow and the Grey Goose.

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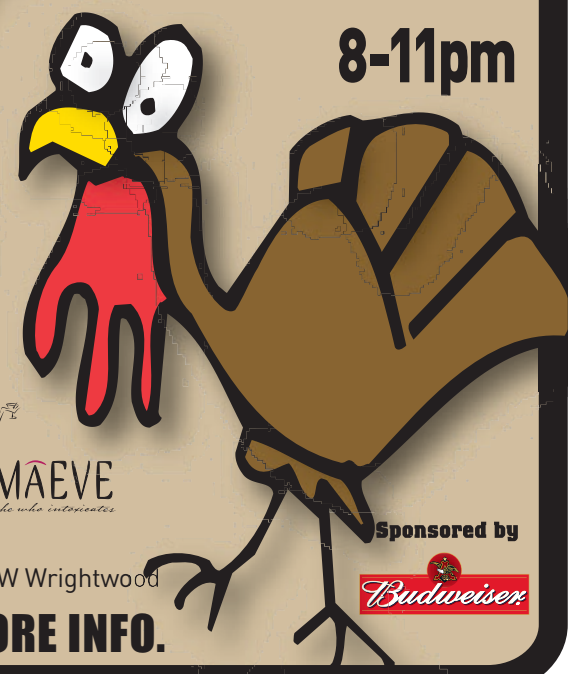

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Chicago Tribune

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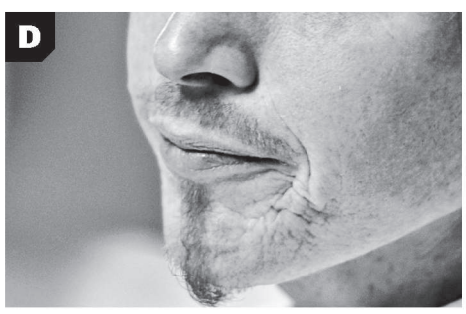
NAME THE CHEF

Can you identify each Chicago chef below from these photos?



BINGO

Achatz	Artisan/ artisanal	Biodynamic	Cutting edge	Deconstructed
Evo	Evocative of (anything)	Farm-to-table	Flavor profile	Fruit-forward
GMO	Grass-fed	FREE	Locally sourced	Mouthfeel
Organic	Reso	Small batch	Snout-to-tail	Sous vide
Swoon/ swoon-worthy	Terroir	Toothsome	Two-top	Umami

MATCH THAT DISH

The following items are actual dishes being served at restaurants on Thanksgiving. Match the dish with the correct establishment:

1. Foie gras with kumquat chutney and five-spice pain perdu
2. Duck confit with spiced pear and parsnip puree
3. Sausage-sage stuffing with sour-cream mashed potatoes
4. Lavender buttermilk biscuits with huckleberry jam
5. Pedro Ximenez turkey jus
6. Linguica-quinoa stuffing
7. Cumin-glazed yam lentil stuffing

A. Sushisamba Rio
B. Vermilion
C. Mercat a la Planxa
D. Harry Caray's
E. Market House
F. Cafe des Architectes
G. Bistronomic

FOODIE BINGO

When your family gathers around the table today, have a marker handy and check off the appropriate square when you hear any of these pretentious words or phrases. Feel free to point your finger and yell "Foodie!" with each infraction.

ANSWERS NAME THAT CHEF: A. Rick Bayless; B. Stephanie Izard; C. Graham Elliot; D. Grant Achatz; FOR THE DISCERNING DINER: 1-F, 2-G, 3-D, 4-E, 5-C, 6-A, 7-B

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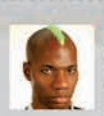
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FOOD FIGHT

Some like their pizza cut in squares, while others swear by slices. For as long as we've been stuffing our faces with delicious food, there have been conflicts about the way we eat it. Addressing such fervent foodie issues, we are proud to continue Food Fight.

BILL HOGAN/ TRIBUNE FILE

THANKSGIVING EDITION: PART I

This week: Which part of the turkey is better?

WHITE MEAT

Emily Van Zandt
EVANZANDT@TRIBUNE.COM
@MMXDINING

When it comes to Thanksgiving, life is food on food on food. More is definitely more and, as such, I say white meat all the way. Simply put, there's more of it. So while you're off enjoying a few servings of dark meat, I'll be off making turkey sandwiches, enchiladas, pot pies, salads and my re-creation of those KFC famous bowls—with turkey. Because I still have some.

VS

DARK MEAT

Dana Moran
DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM
@REDEYEDANA

Why do you think Vikings ate giant turkey legs? Because dark meat is the most badass of all the turkey bits. I will admit that in the game of leftover turkey sandwiches, white meat has its place along with canned cranberry and a big ol' glob of mayo. For like six days straight. But when you're plunked down for The Big Day, nothing beats the moist, tender deliciousness that is dark meat, especially when you're sneaking into the fridge hours later for more.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Log on to **redeyechicago.com** to take a side.

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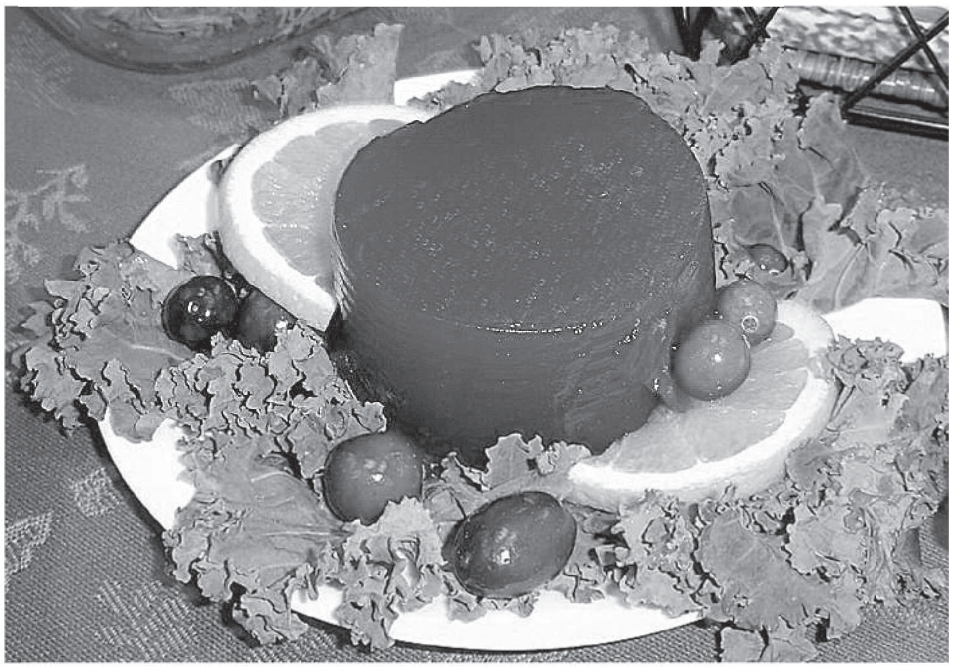
dining

FOOD FIGHT

THANKSGIVING EDITION: PART II

Some like their pizza cut in squares, while others swear by slices. For as long as we've been stuffing our faces with delicious food, there have been conflicts about the way we eat it. Addressing such fervent foodie issues, we are proud to continue Food Fight.



This week: Are you for or against canned cranberry sauce?

FOR CANNED

Mike Hines
MHINES@TRIBUNE.COM
@GIVEMETEXTURE

VS

AGAINST CANNED

Dana Kavan
DKAVAN@TRIBUNE.COM
@CHICAGODANA

The book isn't *always* better than the movie adaptation, and by the same logic, fresh foods aren't *always* better than processed ones. When it comes to cranberries, I like them plopped in front of me with all the dazzling special effects—extra sugar, jelly coating and, yes, even that ribbed can shape. This is Thanksgiving, after all. If we can't indulge on a day best known for decadent feasts, when can we? I will now unbuckle my belt and await your response.

For the first 25 years of my life, I thought I hated cranberries. I assumed the fruit, in any form, tasted like the overly tart, slightly bitter gelatinous blob that my mom served out of a can on Thanksgiving. When I first tasted fresh cranberries treated with the slightest bit of sugar and juice, it was a revelation. Why anyone would buy the canned stuff when making fresh cranberry sauce is so easy is beyond me. Sorry, Mom.

LAST ROUND'S WINNER: **IS PIZZA BETTER HOT OR COLD?**

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Aged for three years in bourbon barrels, this lightly oaky dark rum brings heat to its sweetness. It works in a cocktail or with just an ice cube.

Spirit of New Orleans

Chicago Tribune

If a spirit was to be distilled in New Orleans, it wouldn't be gin. Too hoity-toity. Vodka would be too boring. Whiskey? Its Southern neighbors already do that, and New Orleans copies no one. Which leaves rum—a party drink for a party town, if ever there was one.

No surprise, then, that the home of joie de vivre is also the home of Old New Orleans Rum. Founded in the mid-'90s by New Orleans artist James Michalopoulos, Old New Orleans manufactures three rums for its 10-state distribution zone—Crystal (best suited for cocktails), Cajun Spice and Amber, a three-year aged version.

The three sell evenly in southern Louisiana, but outside of the region, the Cajun Spice is the big seller. Its ingredients include cayenne, chicory, allspice, clove, ginger, cinnamon and—further evidence of a seamless marriage between city and spirit—caramel made 100 pounds at a time in large crawfish pots behind the distillery.

"Louisiana is famous for growing sugar cane, drinking and having a good time, and no one was making anything out of it," said Parker Schonekas, general manager of Old New Orleans Rum. "No one was taking it from the raw step to the finished product."

As with much of New Orleans, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was a major blow to Old New Orleans; eight feet of water flooded the distillery, which was built as a cotton warehouse in the 1880s. A limited edition 10-year aged rum available at the distillery spent several days floating in Katrina water.

"You see the waterline eight feet above your head in the cypress columns," Schonekas said. "Every time I tell the story I have an image of the barrels floating in the water. It just seems crazy to me."

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movies

"Who knew I would actually sing and dance in the movie? I had a blast!"

— **Michelle Williams**, who does all the singing and dancing as Marilyn Monroe in her new film

It took a little padding and a lot of practice to make Williams an icon

BECOMING MARILYN

Reuters

Michelle Williams passed up a chair, instead sitting on the floor in the Beverly Hills Hotel's private dining lounge, sipping a cup of tea.

"Much more comfortable," she said, crossing her legs and unwrapping a granola bar.

The night before, Williams, 31, had flown into L.A. for 48 hours from the Michigan location of "Oz: The Great and Powerful," in which she is playing Glinda the good witch.

Now, however, Williams was focusing on another enchanting woman who weaved her magic on American cinema: Marilyn Monroe. Williams stars as the iconic starlet in the indie film "My Week with Marilyn," based on Colin Clark's book of the same name that opens Wednesday.

It chronicles the author's experience of spending a week with Monroe in 1956 while she was in England shooting the romantic comedy "The Prince and the Showgirl" opposite Sir Laurence Olivier.

"This isn't the Marilyn Monroe story, so the movie is not a tragedy," Williams said. "It's a movie that Marilyn Monroe happens to be a character in."

It's also the type of movie that may resonate with Oscar voters. Williams has been Oscar-nominated twice, as best supporting actress for "Brokeback Mountain" and best actress for the 2010 drama "Blue Valentine." Now, as she embodies one of Hollywood's own, Williams may find herself on a winning streak. Between 2000 and 2010, seven best actress Oscar wins were for roles depicting real people, including Sandra Bullock ("The Blind Side"), Marion Cotillard ("La Vie en Rose") and Helen Mirren ("The Queen").

Williams laughed off the thought.

"I'm just relieved that I paid a proper homage, because I didn't want to let her down," she said.

She was referring to Monroe and the research and physical transformation it took to embody the legendary actress.

"I watched every movie countless times," Williams explained. "The Internet became a great research tool. There were a few fronts that were up and running simultaneously—the physical, the facade and her essence."

One of those was the way Monroe moved. Williams described it as "a series of continuous poses, completely fluid, but at any point if you stopped, you could take a picture and it would be a perfectly set up pose.

"It looked like she loved her body, loved touching her body, loved referencing it, loved being able to guide people's attention to where she wanted them to look."

Though in person the waif-like Williams bears little physical resemblance to Monroe, in the film, she is as voluptuous as Monroe.

Were those her real hips? Or padding? Can she talk about which body parts were hers and which weren't?

"Apparently not," she said. "Apparently my director had some other ideas about it.

"I was definitely heavier than I am now, but I really don't know how much," she added. "But there are ways that she and I will never meet physically. For certain things, no matter what I do, I won't be able to achieve that sameness. ... I was never going to get a body like hers!"

Williams was keenly aware of Monroe's tragic side—the pills, the alcohol, the marriages and her co-dependency on other people.

"Something about her said, 'Love me, protect me,' and a lot of people took that on and felt a kind of devotion to her," she said.

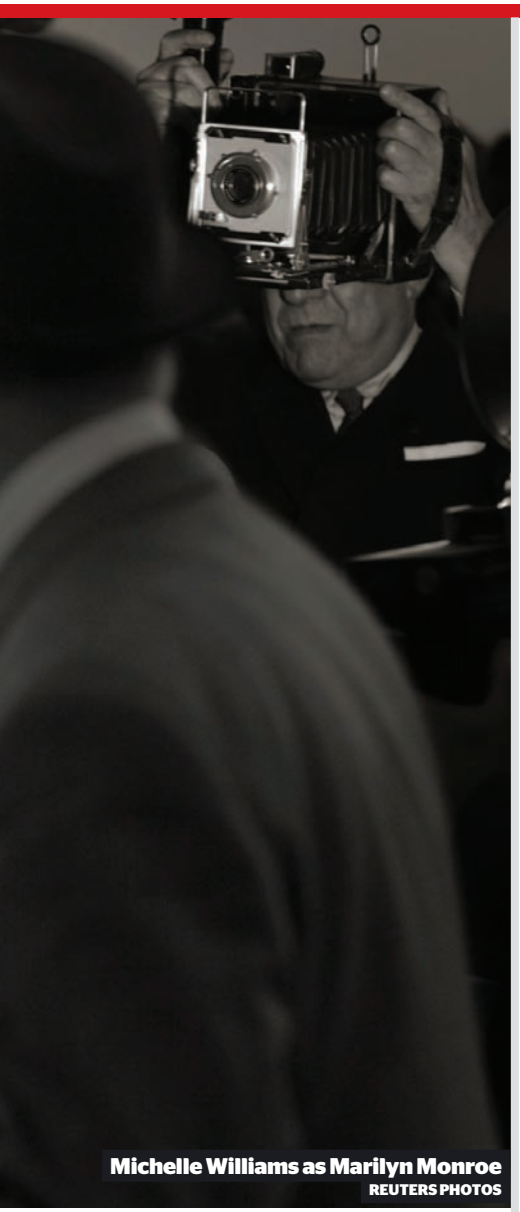
Many people felt a similar protectiveness toward Williams when, in 2008, her ex-boyfriend and "Brokeback Mountain" co-star Heath Ledger died of an accidental drug overdose, making the actress a single mother to their daughter, Matilda, who now is 6 years old.

Though Williams declined to drudge up that past, she did say that unlike Marilyn, "I'm not in as needy of a place, although I think I was when I played the [Marilyn] role. I found myself becoming far more dependent and clingy in a way that I had never done before.

"Luckily, I have a stabilizing force, which is my daughter. I often think, if Marilyn had a kid, she would have pulled through, I really do."

"I'm just relieved that I paid a proper homage, because I didn't want to let her down."

— **Michelle Williams** on the research and physical transformation it took to embody the legendary actress



Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe
REUTERS PHOTOS

Oscar bait

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

My Week with Marilyn *(R)*

!!!!

Imagine skinny-dipping with Marilyn Monroe. You'd probably have a silly, disbelieving grin on your face too.

The based-on-a-true-story heart of "My Week with Marilyn" echoes "Notting Hill": Lowly production assistant Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), still giddy to be working on his first movie, increasingly acquires the trust of the Hollywood icon (Michelle Williams) while she films "The Prince and the Showgirl" with Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) in 1956 England.

Sometimes Marilyn's a mess of insecurity and line-flubbing; other times she's magnetic, turning lives upside down with only a smile. Her glow inspires fawning, and Colin can't help but long—as so many young men have hoped with women both famous and otherwise—to get closer to such unknowable beauty.

Adrian Hodges' script could never be called unconventional. The film's bursting with spunk and lively performances, though, from Judi Dench (as Monroe's on-set surrogate mother figure, actress Dame Sybil Thorndike), Dominic Cooper (as producer Milton Greene) and Julia Ormond as Vivien Leigh. Emma Watson, as a wardrobe girl stood up by Colin once he gains Marilyn's attention, has little to do in the film's weakest plotline.

While Redmayne gives presence to a role that's mostly an observer—Colin is the eyes through which we're meant to see Marilyn, her girlish vulnerability and sexpot savvy—the movie belongs to Branagh and Williams. He's the dapper talent ready to flip out over his leading lady, and she's the star who doubts her talent but never the power that the breathy softness in her voice can wield. She causes mob scenes and can turn on the charm at a moment's notice, but "Marilyn," though certainly not the first film on the topic, effectively suggests the anguish that resulted from Monroe having such a keen awareness of what people wanted her to be—and no more.

It adds up to wonderfully crowd-pleasing Oscar bait that, for my money, registers as far more enthralling than this year's winner, "The King's Speech," because of the complicated character at its center and the tension between fame and talent.

Colin, losing his innocence under the most extraordinary circumstances, struggles to reconcile the Marilyn he sees in person with the one he sees on the screen. Ultimately some of the most intriguing aspects of the legend were her efforts to repurpose what she put on the screen into everyday life.

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VANITY FAIR

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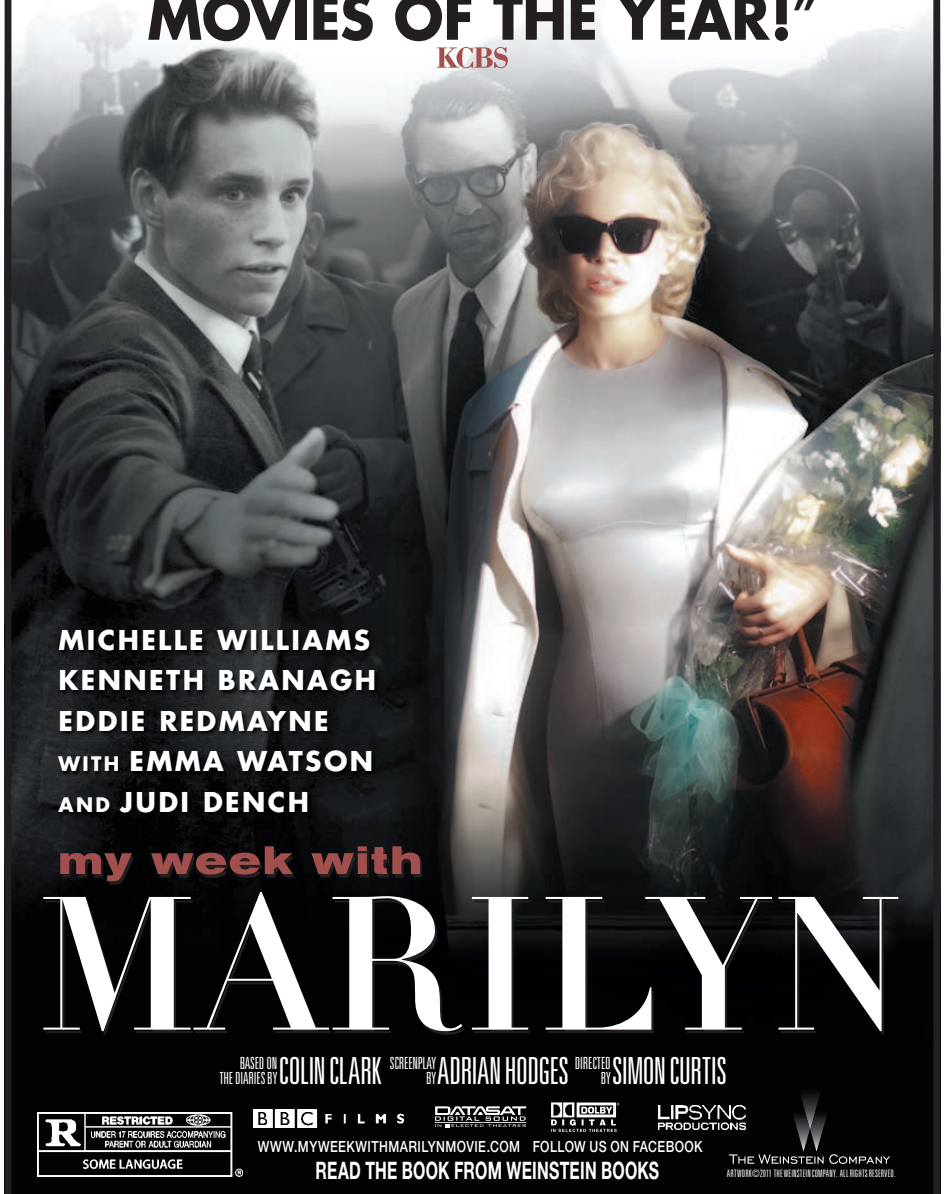
KCBS



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James McAvoy does his dubbing duty

The Orlando Sentinel

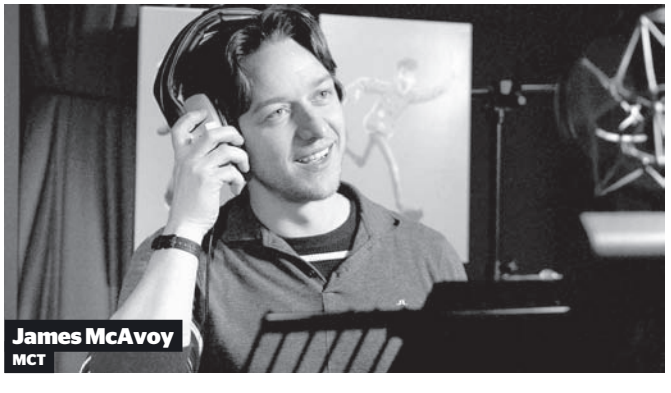
Scottish actor James McAvoy does most of his work these days in American projects such as "X-Men: First Class" and "The Conspirator." But he's not forgetting where he came from. At 32, he's starring in fellow Brit Danny Boyle's heist picture, "Trance." And anytime there's a bit of animation to be done in the U.K., count him present. From the sleeper hit "Gnomeo and Juliet," which made him into a garden gnome Romeo, to the new 3-D animated "Arthur Christmas," which has him playing Santa's passionate but accident-prone son, McAvoy is making his mark as a voice actor as well. "Arthur Christmas" opens Wednesday. We caught up with McAvoy at his London flat.

Is it your patriotic duty that makes you sign on to anything animated in Great Britain?

Ha ha! It's my *financial* duty, I think. But I've been dead lucky at picking these parts, haven't I? I love doing movies that kids can watch (he and wife Anne-Marie Duff have a toddler).

"Arthur Christmas" is a particularly British cartoon, isn't it?

Well, it's Aardman Studios (of the "Wallace & Gromit" movies). They're a fantastically idiosyncratic studio. I know they made this for Sony, but the film has their British heart—a very British sensibility. And even over here in the U.K., their humor is just odd and distinct. I think there's an integrity to the characters as well. The film is arguably about the fight to maintain the integrity of Christmas. That's what Arthur stands for, making sure not one gift isn't delivered.



James McAvoy
MCT

When animators come calling, what qualities do they tell you they're looking for in your voice? Because you don't do a Full Monty Scots accent in these.

I ask every time, and I don't know. You don't audition for them. They've auditioned you by taking some animation and putting your voice from other movies onto it. They look at a lot of actors that way, to see which one fits. You've got the job, but you don't know how you got it. I always want to know, "Which incarnation of my accent and voice are you wanting?"

Holidays in America are all about the traditional movies and TV shows families re-watch during the season. Were there movies your family watched every holiday season in Scotland?

Oh, I loved "The Nightmare Before Christmas." But you know, in Scotland, "Star Wars" was on TV every Christmas. Loved that. And I don't know if it was a good movie or not, but I loved "Santa Claus: The Movie," with Dudley Moore, when I was a kid.

Do you finish "Trance" in time to be home for the holidays?

Oh yeah, I've got one more day, in France, on "Trance," and then it's home to the family, with too much food, lots of Christmas films on the telly and too much cheap chocolate!

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- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00

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- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 3:00,5:15,7:45,9:50
- **Like Crazy** (PG–13) 2:50,5:00,7:15,9:30
- **The Descendants** (R) 1:20,1:50,4:00,4:30,7:00,7:30,9:40,10:05
- **Melancholia** (R) 1:00,3:50,6:50,9:45
- **The Skin I Live In** (R) 1:15,4:15,6:45,9:55
- **Martha Marcy May Marlene** (R) 2:00,4:40,7:40,10:10

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
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- **Hugo** (PG) 5:00,11:00
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:30,2:15,4:50,7:30,10:30
- **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked!** (G) Advance Tickets Available
- **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (NR) Advance Tickets Available
- **Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 10:40
- **A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas** (R) 11:55,2:50,5:50,8:50,11:15
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 3:00,5:40,11:10
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 11:15,2:00,6:30,8:00,9:30,11:20
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 12:05,2:45,5:30,8:15,10:50
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:00,11:45,1:45,2:30,4:30,5:15,7:15,7:50,10:00
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 10:40,1:30,4:15,6:40,9:15
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 1:00,3:30
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:30,1:15,4:00,7:00,10:10
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 12:30,3:15,6:00,8:40
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 10:50,1:40,4:40,7:40,10:20
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 12:40,3:40,6:15,9:05
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) (Open captioned) 12:15,8:30

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- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) ★ 5:00,7:30,10:00
- **J. Edgar** (R) ★ 4:15,7:00,9:50

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- **Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Sequel Event** (NR) 7:00,10:00
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 11:00,1:45,4:25,7:05,9:40
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 1:00,4:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:30,2:10,4:50,7:30,10:15

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(773) 871-6604

- **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (PG) 4:30,7:00,9:30
- **Le Havre** (NR) 9:45 P.M.
- **The Women on the 6th Floor** (NR) 5:45,7:45

THE PATIO THEATER
6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

- **Footloose** (PG–13) 7:30 P.M.

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:45,1:40,4:35,7:30,10:25

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:10,1:15,4:20,7:25,10:25
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:20,1:20,4:15,7:10,10:05

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Hugo** (PG) 4:50,10:00
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 1:40,7:40
- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 9:45
- **J. Edgar** (R) 12:25,3:45,6:50,10:05
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 12:50,1:30,3:40,4:30,6:30,7:30,9:20,10:10
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 5:15,10:15
- **The Muppets** (PG) 12:10,1:50,2:50,4:20,5:20,7:00,7:50,10:20
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 4:45,9:25
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 12:05,2:15,7:05
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 12:15,2:45,7:45
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:10
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:20,4:40,7:10,9:30
- **Kevin Smith: Live From Behind** (NR) Advance Tickets Available

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 11:15,2:00,4:45,7:30,10:15
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:15,1:05,3:55,6:45,9:35

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 10:15,12:30,2:45,5:10,7:35,9:55
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 11:30,2:00,4:50,7:15,9:45

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- **Hugo 3D** (PG) ★ 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) ★ 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00

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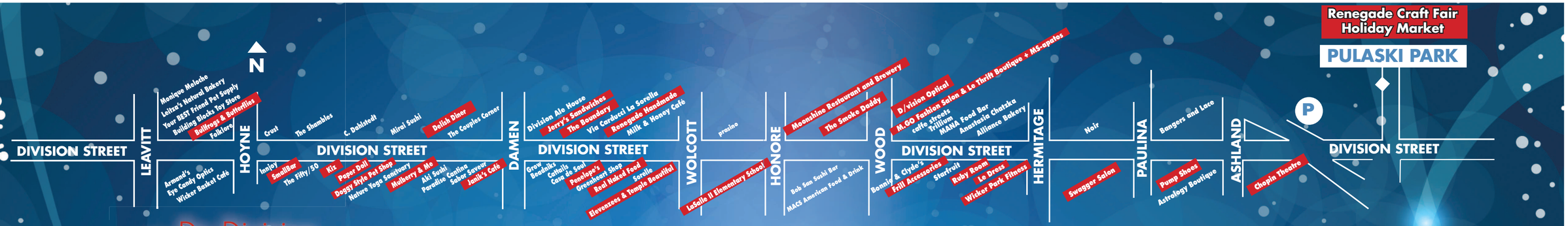

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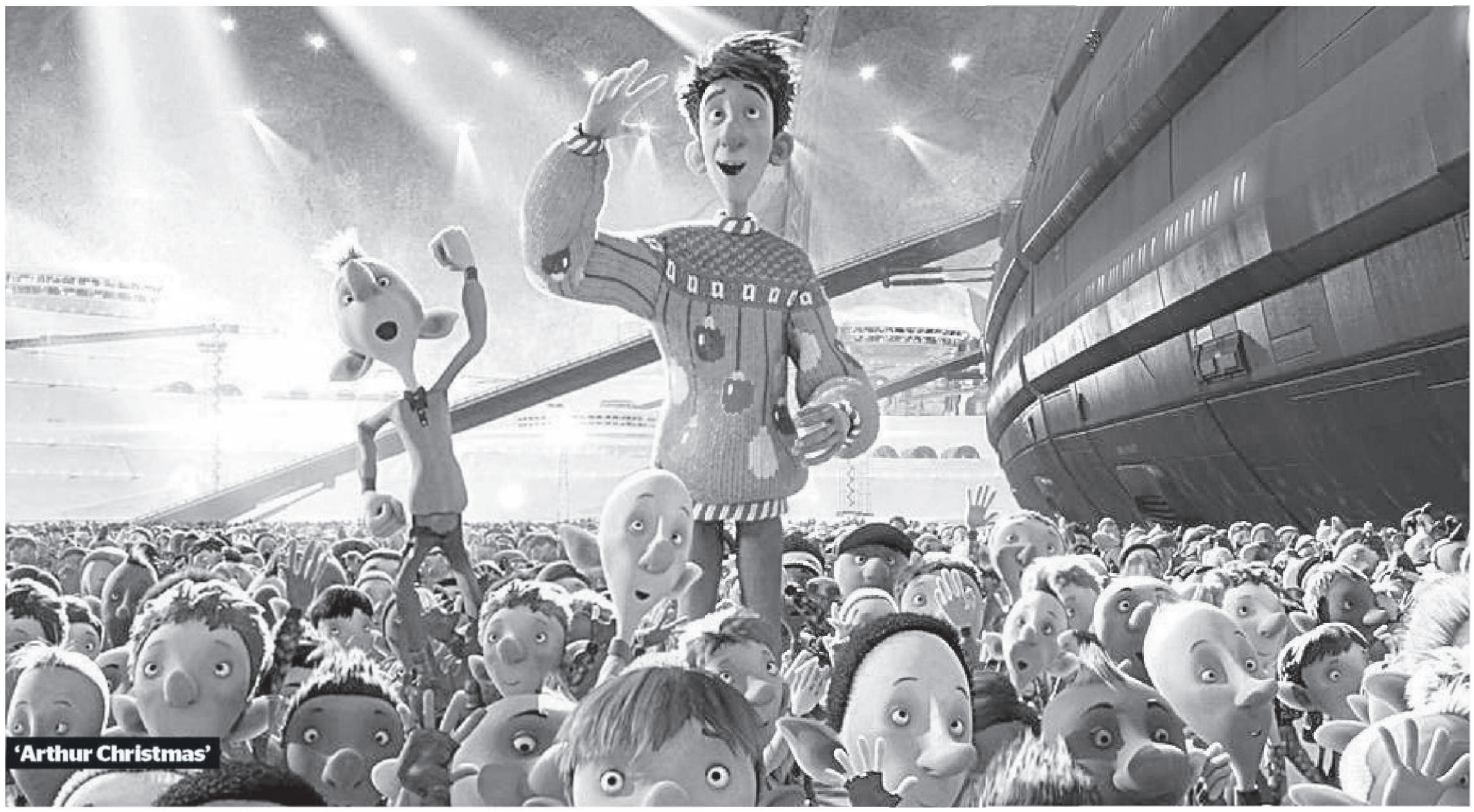
'Arthur Christmas'

Good for a smile, headache

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

Before "Arthur Christmas," the theater subjected me to TWO viewings of Justin Bieber's video for "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." So pain already was pounding my head.

But the computer-animated, 3-D "Arthur" deserves blame for increasing the throbbing. This movie does not know when to take a breath. From Aardman Animations ("Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," "Flushed Away") and first-time feature director Sarah Smith, "Arthur Christmas" tells many jokes for adults but moves with the frantic excess of an over-caffeinated child. Or perhaps just the desire to entertain one.

Arthur Christmas
(PG)

Arthur (voiced by James McAvoy) works passionately in the North Pole letters department, even though dad Santa (Jim Broadbent) pays him little mind. And now that Santa, to the chagrin of Arthur's older brother Steve (Hugh Laurie), has decided not to retire after his 70th Christmas, the jolly guy has officially alienated both of his heirs who hope to one day take the reins of the high-tech ship that long ago replaced that rickety, outdated ol' sleigh.

Arthur's determined commitment to a present that accidentally went undelivered to little English girl Gwen solidifies the movie's emphasis on the importance of feeling included, and the work ethic championed by Arthur and his funny Grandsanta (Bill Nighy) should show kids the value of old-fashioned, unceasing effort. So "Arthur Christmas" has plenty of positivity going for it, as well as both sweetness (in her optimistically inquisitive letter to Santa, Gwen writes, "I think you are real, but how do you do it?") and a speedy cleverness that often delivers another joke before the last one has time to register.

The movie, which recognizes Christmas largely as a chance for presents rather than a time for family bonding, misses an opportunity to explore how the North Pole population spends the rest of the year.

Maybe then Santa wouldn't have such an identity crisis over the idea of not being Santa anymore, since perhaps he spends the year fly-fishing or dress-making or whatever. That sort of patient character examination would slow down "Arthur Christmas," whose humor often will go over kids' heads, and temper a pace that will exhaust most adult viewers—which seems like the opposite of why parents go to movies in the first place.

Melancholia
(R)
Brilliant. See it.

The Descendants
(PG-13)
Shailene Woodley has arrived.

Happy Feet Two
(PG)
Stop it.

Jack and Jill
(PG)
Really. Stop it.

MORE ONLINE For more full Matt Pais reviews, visit **redeyechicago.com.**

NOW SHOWING

The Muppets
(PG)

Star/co-writer Jason Segel has bottled joy and turned it into a movie, wrapping his arms around both Muppet memories and the beloved characters themselves. He dares to tell them that even in a cynical, ironic, disconnected world, "There is always a place for you here."

Of course, in the world of "The Muppets," TV has changed. One of the most popular programs is "Punch Teacher," which is exactly what it sounds like.

So a network exec (Rashida Jones) takes a big chance when she agrees to give the old gang one more shot. The Muppets need it desperately: If they don't raise $10 million pronto, Tex Richman (Chris Cooper), an oil magnate with a name that could only belong to someone dastardly, will demolish the former Muppet studios so he can drill on the land.

The whole mission kicks off thanks to Walter (voiced by Peter Linz), who tags along with his brother Gary (Segel) and Gary's girlfriend, Mary (Amy Adams), on their trip from Smalltown, U.S.A. to Los Angeles—solely because die-hard Muppets fan Walter wants to visit the place where the hits were made.

Plenty of movies center on the desire to stay youthful and need to grow up, but the hilarious, genuinely uplifting "The Muppets" plays that tune with an exuberant innocence that family flicks have mostly lost.

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Asa Butterfield (left) and Ben Kingsley star in "Hugo," directed by Martin Scorsese.

A kids movie for adults about all ages

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

Hugo *(PG)*

"Hey, kids! Wouldn't you love to see a movie that touches on the early days of filmmaking? You might learn about how frames are spliced together to create an illusion on screen! And there's lots of steam coming out of pipes and trains. In 3-D!"

Fine. So this dignified family adventure from Martin Scorsese—yes, that Martin Scorsese—doesn't scream "huge hit with short-attention-span kids," despite the presence of, uh, some fun-looking wind-up toys. The story of Hugo (Asa Butterfield), a young orphan who lives in the walls of a 1930s Paris train station, speaks more to viewers old enough to understand loss and experience nostalgia for early discoveries.

John Logan's script (from the award-winning "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" by Brian Selznick) sometimes creaks like the gears of the giant clocks Hugo operates. No one would accuse "Hugo" of moving too fast.

It features a winning turn from Ben Kingsley (as the godfather to Chloe Moretz, who plays Hugo's only friend) and memorable supporting characters (Sacha Baron Cohen, Emily Mortimer, Michael Stuhlbarg) who often feel like they stepped out of a silent film. Moving pictures are a gateway to the past in "Hugo," which recognizes the fragility of youth while affectionately saying, "Believe it or not, kids, your parents had lives before you came along. And they went to the movies too."

Scorsese to direct thriller 'The Snowman'

Martin Scorsese's latest, "Hugo," is a children's movie, but the legendary director is getting back to his standard fare with a serious crime thriller.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Scorsese will adapt Norwegian best-seller "The Snowman" for the big screen. Scorsese reportedly has been interested in "The Snowman" for quite some time, but has just gotten the go-ahead from Norwegian writer Jo Nesbo.

"The Snowman" is the seventh in a nine-book series about alcoholic detective Harry Hole. In the book, brilliant Harry tracks Norway's first serial killer, who leaves a snowman at each of his crime scenes. CNN

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GET PIGGY WITH IT

Newsday
"The Muppets" reunites the old Jim Henson gang on the big screen for the first time since 1999 and introduces a new generation to the joys of digitally manipulated (as opposed to digital) heroes. The film features Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Fozzie, Kermit, Animal, Beaker and the curmudgeonly Statler and Waldorf. But there is little doubt (in her mind) that all eyes will be on a certain curvaceous paragon of porcine pulchritude, whom John Anderson conversed with recently, via several layers of virtual reality.

It's been 12 years since the last Muppets movie. Where you been? Vacationing in Aruba?
I adore Aruba! Do you have a place!? I'd love to visit! I'm already packed ... Oh wait, you asked a question in there, too, didn't vous? What have I been doing for the past 12 years? I've been terribly busy. Not only did I write a book "The Diva Code" and make multiple award-winning appearances on such Internet sensations as "Muppets Bohemian Rhapsody" [on YouTube], but I've also been responsible for maintaining my position as a full-time 24/7/365 international world-class diva. You have no idea how time-consuming that is. I have no idea either ... my people take care of it.

When the new movie picks up, you're working as a plus-size editor at Paris Vogue. French sizes are smaller aren't they?
Oui, they are! That's why the "plus" size nom de couture is so misleading. What is "plus" in French would be considered junior petite in Hollywood. But I believe that style comes in all sizes. Ergo, the bigger you are, the more style you have!

Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller wrote the script for the new film so they could work with the Muppets. But it was really YOU they wanted, wasn't it?
Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller wrote the script for "The Muppets"? Really? I had no idea there was a script. I usually just show up on set, the director yells "action" and the magic happens. But if they wrote a script, I'm very happy for them ... and I promise to read it someday. Anyone who'd go through the trouble of all that typing deserves to meet moi. I do remember Jason; tall guy, big goofy smile. And while I don't remember Nick Stoller, I'm sure he's tall and goofy, too.

In the new film, oil is discovered under the Muppet Theater, and oil baron Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) plans to raze it. Does somebody save your bacon?
Oh, I see what you did there! You made a little "bacon" joke at moi's expense. You got a death wish or something, buster?!

Do you work out?
Actually, I have a personal trainer who works out for me. I pay, he sweats.

Is Kermit your soul mate, or have you moved on?
Yes, Kermie and moi are still soul mates. We are meant for each other. And while we are not "married" in the traditional, legal "I do" sense, we are bound to each other forever, till death do us part. I personally guarantee it.

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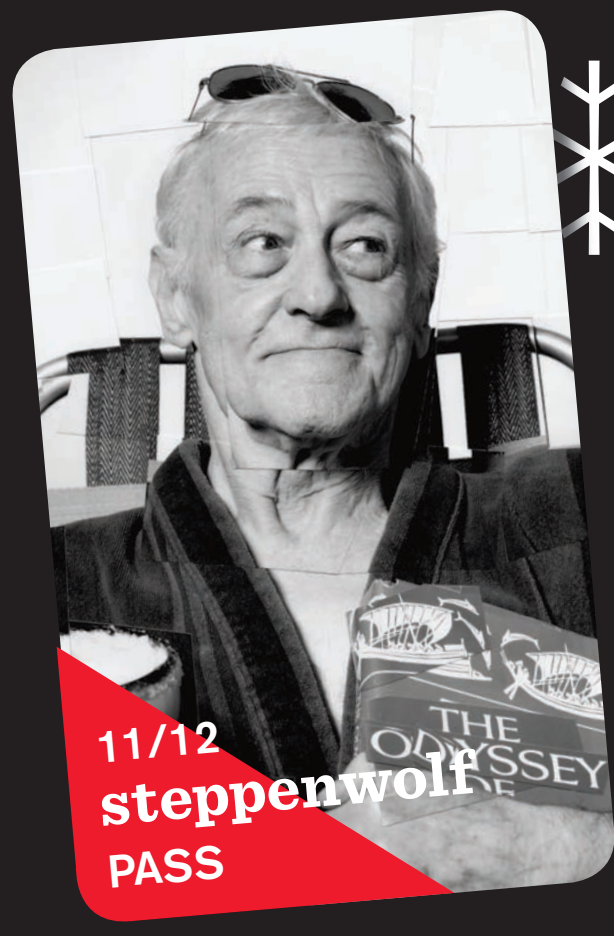

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Laughs on track

7 rising comedy acts to watch in 2012

By Julia Borcherts
FOR REDEYE

Sure, Chicago's famous for big shoulders, but from the early vaudeville days to the groundbreaking '50s and '60s comedy scene to today's wealth of stand-up, improv and sketch shows, Chicago's also famous for belly laughs. With dozens of shows across town every night, how do you choose where to go in the Chi-Chi for a ha-ha? These rising stars will keep you slapping your knees. JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Seth and Kellen
Seth Dodson, 29, and Kellen Alexander, 26

"Impress These Apes" Season 3 champ Dodson, who moved from Texas in 2003 "because I wanted to see snow," and Alexander, who moved from Ohio the same year "to prove to the University of Chicago how wrong they were to accept me," made a splash with their "1,2,3, Fag!" improv show and "Qweirdo" LGBT comedy showcases. Their newest series, "NEDtalks: Spreading Worthless Ideas," a parody of the "TED Talks" tech conferences, features "lectures" by comedic guest "presenters."
See them: Dec. 11 in "Nedtalks: Spreading Worthless Ideas" at Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. ($5)

Brian Babylon
30-something

Despite the Chicago-born Babylon's slew of high-profile gigs—panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" quiz show, host and producer of Vocalo-FM 89.5's "The Morning Amp" radio show, MC at Jokes and Notes and The Moth StorySLAM—it's not all glamour and glitz. "I did a total atomic crap bomb at a show in London," the 2009 New York Comedy Contest finalist said. "And this was the show for black people!"
See him next: Tuesday at The Moth StorySLAM; Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. ($8)

Tim Baltz
30

"I was terrible—fart humor, pandering, not taking any risks," the Joliet native said of early comedy gigs on his elementary school bus. "But that's how you learn—be awful for a while and still love it." Baltz's character work in The Second City e.t.c.'s "The Sky's the Limit (Weather Permitting)"—including a socially awkward guy on a first date, a horny Baltimore Oriole and a spot-on Rahm Emanuel impression—just scored him a "Best Actor" Jeff Award.
See him: Thursdays-Sundays in "The Sky's the Limit (Weather Permitting)" at The Second City e.t.c., 1608 N. Wells St. ($22-$27)

Dominizuelan
Lori Diaz, 30; and Wendy Mateo, "don't-worry-about-it-ty"

Venezuelan-born Diaz and Dominican-American Bronx native Mateo moved to Chicago in 2005, and their debut sketch show, "People in the City: Bodegas, Beisbol and the American Dream," earned them a showcase audition for "SNL." But what are they most excited about? "It's a tie," they say, "between Latina Magazine recognizing us as 'the future of Latino comedy' and John Leguizamo giving us a Twitter shout-out."
See them next: Dec. 4 at Comedy Picante; Joe's Bar, 940 W. Weed St. ($10-$12)

Urlakis and Cusick
Dave Urlakis, 30; and Sean Cusick, 32

Local actor Urlakis and upstate New York 2001 transplant Cusick co-starred in the hit religious satire "Best Church of God" and gained recognition for solo projects—Cusick co-created Annoyance's "Sodomites! The Musical" and directs for The Second City. ComedySportz ensemble member Urlakis' YouTube channel "Awkward Spaceship" went viral this fall.
See them: Through Dec. 17 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. ($15)

Ever Mainard
25

The native Texan, who moved to Chicago in 2007, hosted Maria Bamford at Mayne Stage last month ("My heart did cartwheels because I look up to her so much") and appears in more than a dozen shows this month, in addition to hosting her weekly comedy showcase.
See her: Monday at The S*** Show; Shambles, 2050 W. Division St. (Free!)

Cameron Esposito
30

The asymmetrically hairstyled El Circo Cheapo Cabaret ringmaster, Windy City Rollers commentator and Lincoln Lodge producer turned her trademark storytelling-style stand-up into a solo show, "Side Mullet Nation," which premiered—and sold out—at July's Just for Laughs Festival. And did we mention she does well for herself outside of the Chicago confines? Esposito recently performed at the prestigious Aspen Rooftop and Bridgeview comedy festivals and toured with Maria Bamford.
See her: Through Dec. 15 in "Side Mullet Nation" at The Comedy Bar (Ontourage), 157 W. Ontario St. ($10)

music

K. FLAY
When: 9:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave.
Tickets: $10, 773-278-6600

Food for thought

Wilmette's K. Flay cooks up culinary references and represents for white, female, suburban rappers

CHI-TUNES
Andy Downing
» metromix@tribune.com

NEED TO KNOW
Band Name: K. Flay
Sound/sounds like: On her self-titled debut EP, the young MC, born Kristine Flaherty, flashed an elastic flow and a quick wit, rhyming atop beats that rumbled like traffic on crowded streets and throbbed like packed discos. More recently the rapper, who spins engaging tales about the mundanity of day-to-day life, has gravitated toward airy, electro-spiked beats that leave more room for her dense wordplay.
Claim to fame/need to know: The Wilmette-born Flay, who relocated to Brooklyn in August following eight years in San Francisco, has opened for everyone from Snoop Dogg to Passion Pit. She's also responsible for a fully sanctioned remix of the Beastie Boys track "Don't Play No Game That I Can't Win." Look for Flay to release new music by the end of the year ("I know that's vague," she says), with a full-length album still TBD.
Interviewed: Kristine "K. Flay" Flaherty, 26, Brooklyn by way of Wilmette

There aren't many white, female, suburban rappers out there. Did it feel like there were extra hurdles for you to overcome?
There's the novelty factor of it because not many people in the hip-hop realm are white women, but that being said, the community is getting more diversified because everyone in my generation has really grown up with hip-hop as an integral part of pop culture.

Do you think there are things you can get away with talking about in your music that maybe a male rapper couldn't?
[Laughs.] Totally! It's actually kind of a joke that, like, in every song I mention food. I'm thinking the way other people talk about sex in songs is how I talk about food. Perhaps it can be a little bit easier to talk about more emotional stuff too, although you've got someone like Kid Cudi who's very emotional in a lot of his songs. But women—sensitive souls that we are—are given a little more leeway in that department, I suppose.

You've opened for Ludacris, Snoop Dogg and Passion Pit. Who had the best backstage spread?
Passion Pit had a really nice spread. They used to get all these doughnuts and every day I'd be like, "Oh man, I kind of want one of those doughnuts." But I restrained myself.

Since your family no longer lives in Wilmette, does that mean you won't get the full Thanksgiving experience before your homecoming show here?
I'm actually going to be in Oakland, which is where my mom lives, the day before the show and then I'm flying out early in the morning. So I will have some family Thanksgiving, which will be nice.

What's your favorite part of the holiday?
I make these really amazing sweet potatoes, so probably the satisfaction of making them and having everybody say, "Man, these are so good." It's a nice self-esteem boost when you get to the low times. It's like, "Well, at least I can make sweet potatoes." They're not good for you, but they're super delicious. The secret is lots of butter.

You drop a lot of basketball references on your EP. Did you play in college?
Not in college. I wish. I just played through high school, and these days I play on small hoops now and again.

How do you think you'd fare against other rappers on the court? Like could you take Master P?
Oh God, he would kill me! He was going to be a professional athlete! Probably everyone could take me, though a lot of musicians are surprisingly awful at sports. I've never actually had a ton of hip-hop basketball challenges. Maybe I need to change that.

You've started reviewing books on your website (kflay.com). In your opinion, what's one book everyone should read?
Well, I have my personal favorite book, which is called "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. It's about this futuristic society where this theocracy has taken hold.

I half-thought you might say "Harry Potter."
Oh [bleep]. I just got into a deep conversation and was ridiculed for championing "Harry Potter." I'm just hoping most people have read that by now. So we'll put an asterisks by "Handmaid's Tale" and I'll include "Harry Potter." Though I'm assuming you've already read it, you idiots.

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

FAST FORWARD

TOP 5 SHOWS THROUGH SUNDAY

Yawn
8 p.m. Sat. at Vic Theatre
Rising Chicagoans, opening for the Kooks.

Anthony Hamilton
9 p.m. Sun. at House of Blues
Soul is always in style.

Tinariwen
9 p.m. Fri. at Metro
World musicians play here often. Not a bad thing.

Yukon Blonde
8 p.m. Fri. at Ultra Lounge
A good reason to check out the revamped venue.

Peter Murphy
8 p.m. Sat. at Metro
Any Bauhaus fans out there?

K. FLAY PERSONALITY TEST

What's the last album you bought?
Interestingly, the last album I legitimately bought is "ATL-iens" because I lost my copy of it.

Song you've listened to on repeat recently?
I have listened to this remix of "Antonio." It's a Designer Drug track.

Song you never want to hear again?
3 Doors Down ... what's that song? It's on the "Rock Band" game we have. I don't know what it's called. And I don't even want to know.

Best concert you've seen in the last year?
That's a very interesting question. I saw the Head & the Heart in New York, which I really liked.

New band you don't know personally that deserves to be big?
They only have a few songs out right now, but they're called AlunaGeorge. They're British, and I think they're going to be popping soon.

Favorite movie ever?
"Clueless," easy.

Chicago's best music venue?
Well, I just played at the Vic and everyone was so, so nice.

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Blige
REUTERS

Much a Blige

CNN

Seventeen years after the release of her breakthrough album, "My Life," Mary J. Blige offers up a sequel—"My Life II: ... The Journey Continues (Act 1)."

"The first 'My Life' album was about healing and helping people get through things," the singer said. "Now there's recession, there's war and there's people really not feeling good about life anymore. So it's time, because people need to feel the hug that comes through music."

At 40, Blige has cemented her place as an R&B icon, with 50 million in worldwide album sales and nine Grammys. And lately she's been honing her acting chops, taking on the role of a nightclub owner in the big-screen adaptation of "Rock of Ages," starring Tom Cruise, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Russell Brand. She's also set to star as the eclectic jazz great Nina Simone in the biopic "Nina."

Blige talked about the new album, which dropped Tuesday, her acting and Tom Cruise.

A lot has changed in the 17 years between "My Life" and "My Life II." What precipitated that change?

That's an interesting question. I come from pain. I come from poverty. I come from embarrassment, and my mom struggling, and having two jobs and leaving us with the baby sitter—and coming back and we're outside the baby sitter's house. I've come back from abuse from people. I really wanted out.

It started snowballing into this thing that was hurting me, and I was in the public eye. I got to a place where I understood that I needed help, and that was during the "No More Drama" album (released in 2001) when I met my husband—who was my boyfriend at the time. And who knew that he was going to have the information that he had for me, and that I was going to be able to receive it?

Let's talk about "Rock of Ages."

I play a gentleman's club owner. I mean, you know ...

Is that a strip club, Mary?

Yeah, it's a strip club! But you know, on the highest scale. And my job is to encourage those women to feel better in a dark place.

Did you have direct scenes with Tom Cruise?

I definitely had a scene with Tom Cruise, and he is just so helpful and so much fun. Everyone was just—how can I say it? Everyone in that star-studded cast, they were just as star-struck to meet me as I was to meet them. And when I met Catherine Zeta-Jones, she was like, "I love you!" And I was like, "What? I love YOU!" And Russell Brand is just amazing. And Julianne Hough is my friend, and Adam Shankman (the director) is one of my really good friends. So we were like family—no joke.

You seem to be in a really good place, and that's reflected on "My Life II."

Yeah, I am. The place I'm in with "My Life II" is understanding that there WILL be trials. Trials will come. It is not going to be, "Oh, everything is wonderful all of the time," because it is not. And the balance is you either know how to get around it, or you just have to go through it. That's life.

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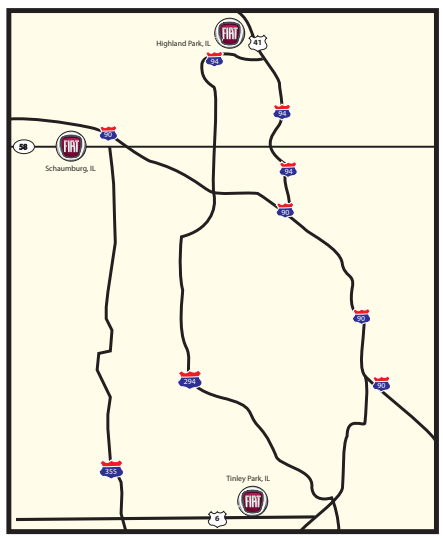

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WEDNESDAY'S TOP SHOWS

CITY AND COLOUR, HACIENDA
7:30 p.m. $27.50, **etix.com**. Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-472-0449.

DOLLY VARDEN, PHIL ANGOTTI BAND
$12-$24. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

DUKE TUMATOE AND THE POWER TRIO
8 p.m. $15. Beverly Arts Center of Chicago, 2407 W. 111th St. 773-445-3838.

FLOSSTRADAMUS
9 p.m. $15. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

JAVIER RUIBAL
8:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

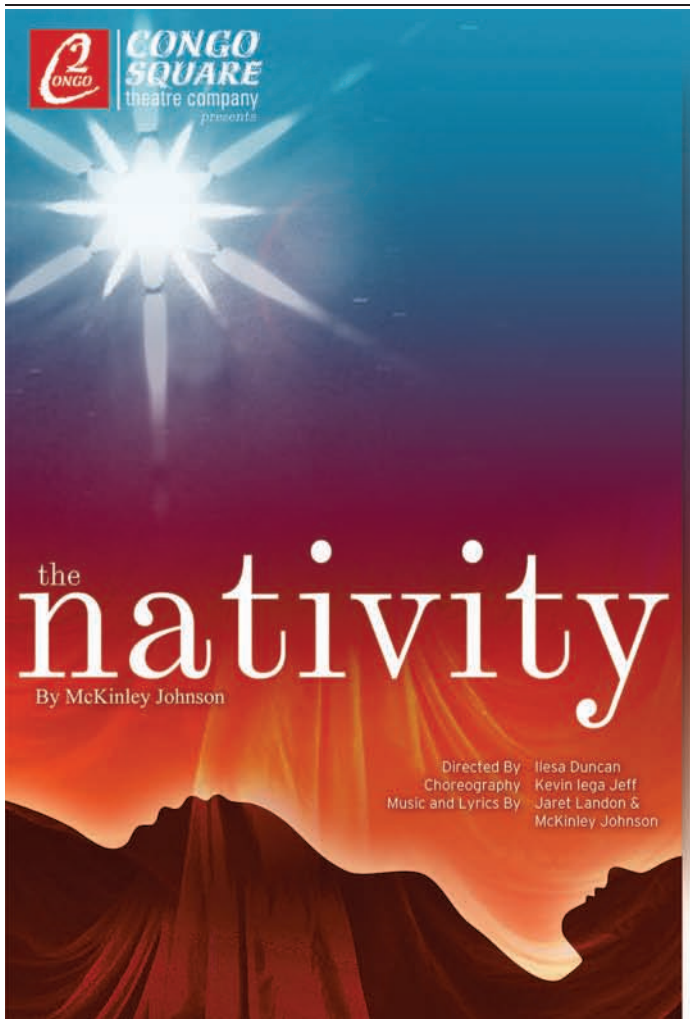
MATHIEN AND ANIMATE OBJECTS
8 p.m. $7. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

NAKED RAYGUN
9 p.m. $23. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0337.

THIS MUST BE THE BAND
9 p.m. $12-$14. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9494.

VAN GHOST
9 p.m. $10-$15. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

Thee Oh Sees
7 and 10 p.m. $12. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.
Indie rockers' latest, "Carrion Crawler/The Dream," may blow out your speakers.



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It's still Jackson's music—just not as good

By Randall Roberts
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Immortal
Michael Jackson

This early into the musical afterlife of Michael Jackson, it's hard to know how to react to something like "Immortal." Should we be excited about an officially sanctioned DJ mix/score to the new Cirque du Soleil production of the same name, peppered with odd vocal interludes, weird New Age accents, crazy funk breakdowns and something called "The Mime Segment"? Or should we reserve our enthusiasm for whatever lies in the archive that's rarer and/or more revealing of our fallen superstar, no doubt waiting in the wings for the next prime-time opportunity?

More precisely: Whose interest is "Immortal" serving? Is the goal to expand Jackson as an artist, an estate, a brand or a visionary?

Big questions out of the way (and unaddressed), "Immortal" is a double-disc mix of Jackson's hits both as a solo artist and as a member of the Jacksons and the Jackson 5. (It's also available in a single-disc "highlights" version.) It was compiled and recontextualized by Kevin Antunes in much the same way that George Martin and Giles Martin reworked the Beatles' catalog for the Cirque production and soundtrack to "Love," the dance company's interpretation of the Liverpool band's oeuvre. "Immortal" also is, at its worst, way cheesier than "Love," filled with easy-listening strings, spoken-word interludes buried in spooky echo and curious pacing.

But to call it a mixtape of Jackson's music isn't entirely accurate, because the soundtrack is beholden to the Cirque/"Immortal" storyline and therefore sequenced not for the dance floor but for a Las Vegas-style production. As a result, a wildly inventive remix, such as what Antunes does for "Dancing Machine," barely gets going before grinding to a halt a few minutes in and we're stuck with a young Michael, surrounded by the sounds of wild animals in the jungle, singing a tribal version of "Ben." And the composition built around Jackson's vocal hook in Rockwell's "Somebody's Watching Me" serves little purpose as an audio-only experience other than to remind listeners that Michael made some serious artistic missteps in his life.

The show "The Immortal World Tour" was created by Cirque du Soleil as a tribute to Michael Jackson. GETTY IMAGES

But aside from a few weird choices, none of this is Antunes' fault. After all, who'd want to fiddle with "Human Nature," "Beat It" or "Billie Jean," some of the most popular songs of the past half-century? That he mostly pulls it off is a testament to his abilities as a sound designer, though it's not rich enough to make this essential listening. For that, there's "Thriller" and "Off the Wall."

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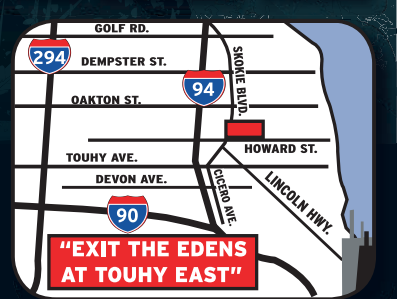

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shop

Best Buy warehouse employees move TVs last week in preparation for Black Friday.
ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE

Day of deals

If you're gonna be up before the crack of dawn, you might find shopping to your liking

Chicago Tribune

The Friday after Thanksgiving earned its "Black" nickname years ago because it was the shopping day that moved retailers' ledgers out of the red and into the black. That's not a sure thing these days, but the adjective still fits, given the trend toward nocturnal store openings.

Chains such as Best Buy, Macy's, Kohl's and some Target stores are opening at the stroke of midnight, rather than 4 or 5 a.m. like last year. Toys R Us and a few others up the ante to 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

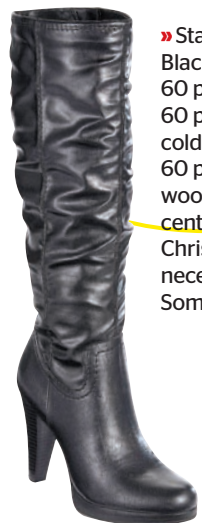
Debating whether to pull an all-nighter at the outlet mall despite the tryptophan in that turkey? Read the fine print on ads to see whether the deals you crave are available in the days leading up to and after Thanksgiving. Many retailers, including Kohl's, are offering the savings on their websites starting on Thanksgiving. Shopping from the couch with a second slice of pie may prove more tempting than midnight madness.

Still, hot items such as discounted electronics go fast, so if those are on your list, snoozing could mean losing. At Wal-Mart, Black Friday pricing on toys starts at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving, when an Xbox 360 4GB console with Kinect will be priced at $199.96, including "Kinect Adventures" game, wireless controller, composite AV cable and one-month Xbox Live gold membership, plus a $50 Wal-Mart gift card, **about.com** couponing guide Donna Montaldo said. Wal-Mart's electronics sale starts at midnight, with one preview ad mentioning a 46-inch Samsung LCD TV for $598, an Amazon Kindle Fire for $199, a $49 LG DVD player, a $248 HP AMD dual-core laptop and an Emerson 32-inch LCD TV for $188. Deals vary by location.

Many retailers were letting only a few details trickle out in advance, but here's a sneak peek at the Black Friday bounty.

» Most Macy's stores (and **macys.com**) open at midnight on Black Friday with deals such as 20 percent off dresses, 40 percent off select coffee makers and 50 percent off Sharper Image iPhone and iPod docking stations. Discounted items include Rampage boots for $19.99, DKNY puffer coats for $79.99 and half-carat diamond studs in 14-karat white gold for $199. There are $68.99 Cuisinart seven-cup food processors and $179.99 KitchenAid "classic" stand mixers (after $20 mail-in rebate). With any $65 fragrance purchase, shoppers receive a free digital video camera (one per customer, while supplies last).

» Midnight usually means trouble in the land of Disney. Not this year, when 150 Disney stores across the country will open at that hour, with others opening at 4 or 5 a.m. Shoppers who arrive between midnight and 10 a.m. on what Disney is calling Magical Friday will get a 20 percent discount on all items. Select customers also will receive a free Muppets plush toy while supplies last.



» Starting on Thanksgiving online and at 4 a.m. Black Friday in stores, J.C. Penney offers 60 percent off accent furniture, 50 percent to 60 percent off rugs, 50 percent to 70 percent off cold-weather accessories and 55 percent to 60 percent off diamond jewelry. There are $18.99 wood castle block sets, $29.99 boots and 65-percent-off women's coats. Early birds get a Disney Christmas Mickey Snowglobe; no purchase necessary; one per customer while supplies last. Some deals last till 1 p.m.

» Kohl's stores will offer early-bird specials from midnight Thanksgiving until 1 p.m. Friday, including a Sonoma Life + Style Torrance five-piece luggage set for $44.99 (regular price: $229.99), Montaldo said.

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Pretty in punk

Mesh curve halter dress for $24.80 from **forever21.com**

Los Angeles Times

Kristen Stewart is having quite a moment. Her role as Bella Swan in the "Twilight" film series has put her on the cover of almost every major magazine, and she's the envy of every Twihard engrossed in her "Are they or aren't they dating" saga with "Twilight" costar Robert Pattinson.

The latest film in the series, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1," opened Friday and is on track to gross $300 million in U.S. theaters alone.

Stewart has perfected the pretty-in-punk look during the past year with minis embellished with jewels, sequins and metal. At the 2011 People's Choice Awards she chose a gold sequin mini by Reem Acra, at the 2011 MTV Movie Awards a red mini adorned with safety pins by Balmain and at a taping for "The Tonight Show" a color-blocked blue and black Monique Lhuillier mini.

Stewart appeared in yet another mini when she recently was honored with a cement block in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. Co-stars Pattinson and Taylor Lautner joined Stewart to immortalize their feet and hands on Hollywood Boulevard.

She wore a net overlay Marios Schwab beige cocktail dress with patent leather detail, a shorter version of the one that appeared on the spring 2012 runways, with black velvet pumps by Brian Atwood. For the ceremony she traded the pumps for a pair of black and white checkered sneakers.

It might be difficult to find a dress with net overlay in a reasonable price range, but you can get Stewart's look in a mini with lace or mesh as shown in the photos here.

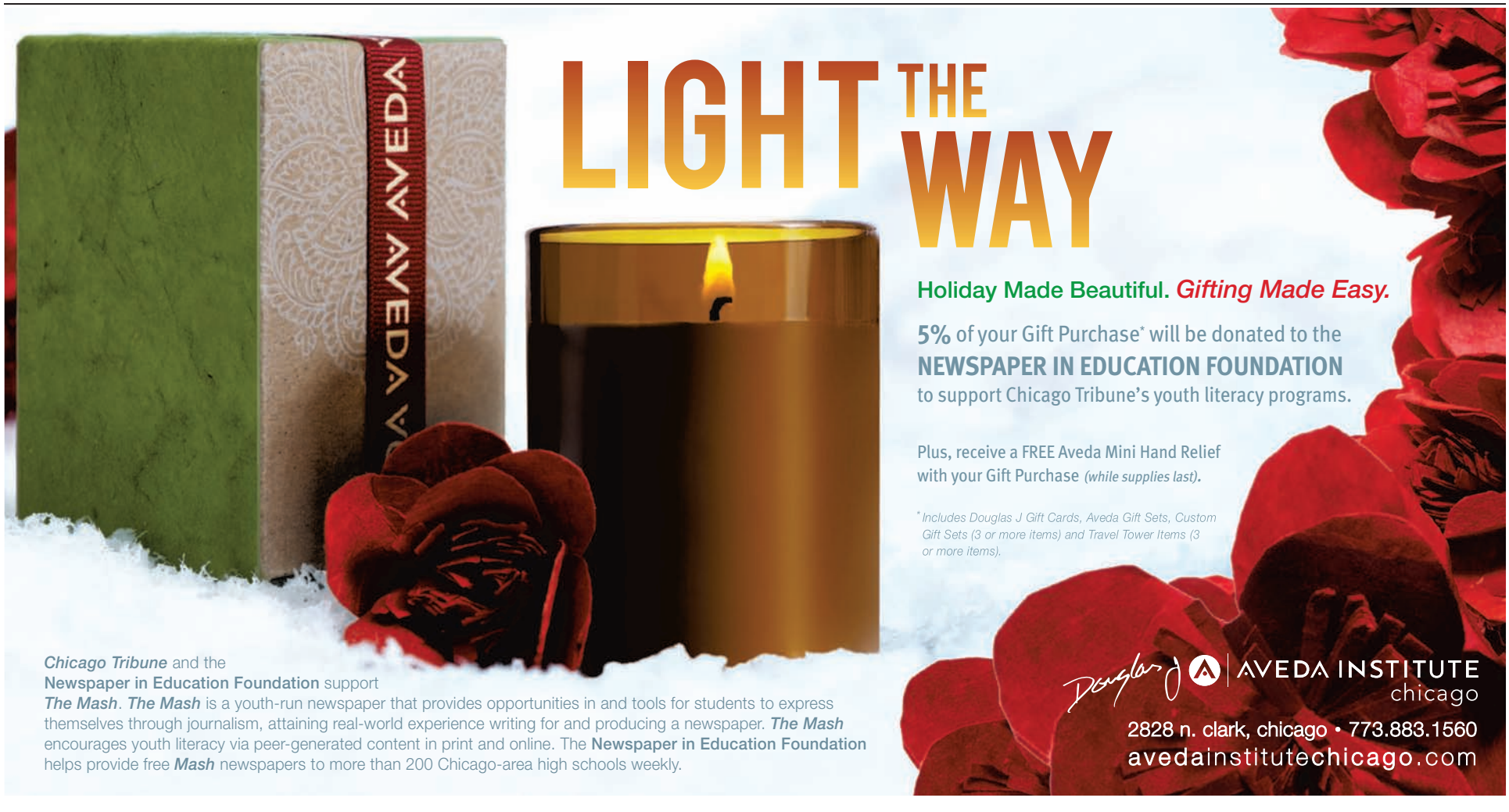
With holiday dressing just around the corner, a beige and black mini will be a versatile go-to piece for parties.

Suzi Chin for Maggy Boutique strapless lace overlay dress from **nordstrom.com** for $83.90

Elementz dress from **macys.com** for $29.99.

Accessorize with Vans checkerboard slip-on in black and white for $45.

Kristen Stewart
GETTY IMAGES



WANNA DO THIS GUY A FAVOR?

This guy's shift usually starts before most papers hit the street so we're almost certain he won't see this ad. Now he may read the paper at lunch over a hot Italian beef. However, even then he'd read the sports or check if he'll be working in the rain or snow tomorrow. Of course, he could see the ad when he uses the paper to wipe any fallen giardiniera off his sacred Carhartt jacket. But the odds are he'll never read that on Black Friday he can buy one Carhartt sweatshirt and get another one at 50% off.

So you could tell him about this ad. Or do the hero move and head on down and buy him some Carhartt. Because we all know he won't spend the Friday after Thanksgiving shopping. C'mon. This guy will either be back at work or kicking back with a cold one. And we love him for it.

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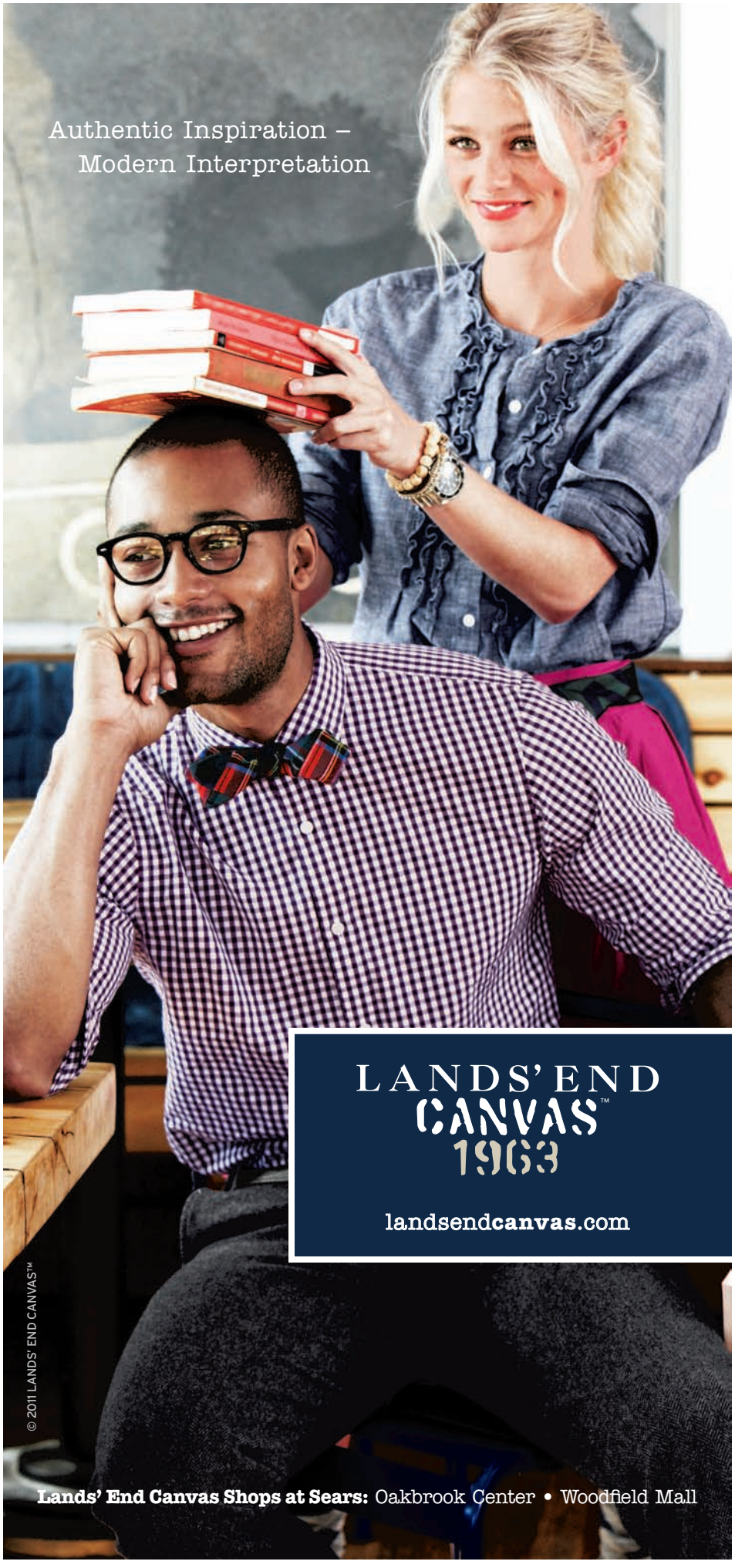

shop

The envelopes, please:

Femininity, functionality at your fingertips

Chicago Tribune

So often with handbags, our reach exceeds our grasp. That's one reason designers are pushing the envelope. This clutch puts femininity and functionality at our fingertips, with a body built for business, but a surface of sensual skin. Scaled, sequined, spotted, striped, it sits blithely in the palm of our hand, yet many are surprisingly roomy inside. So go ahead, send a mixed message. Designed, sealed, delivered, it's yours.

1. Banana Republic leopard calf hair clutch, $98 at **bananarepublic.com**.

2. Black python print clutch, $24, **hm.com/us** for stores.

3. Marc by Marc Jacob metallic clutch, $158 at Bloomingdales.

4. Cocobelle python clutch, $198, **dna2050.com** for stores.

5. Claire Vivier La Pochette clutche, $104 at **seevivier.com**.

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Stk# 47505

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*27 month lease based on $2500 due at lease inception plus 1st mos payment, tax, title, lic & doc fee to qualified buyers. No sec deposit req'd. Charge at lease end for excess wear or mileage. See dealer for details. Expires 11/28/11.

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2002 Ford Escape #P15959A Yellow, Roof, Auto!	$5,977
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2001 Ford Mustang GT Convertible #11555A, Black, Loaded	$7,977
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2010 Ford Transit Connect #47208A, Racks, Power, White	$16,977
2009 Ford Fusion #47400A, Gray, Lthr, V6	$16,977
2011 Ford Fiesta SEL #47634A, Silver, Roof, Auto, 4-Dr	$17,577
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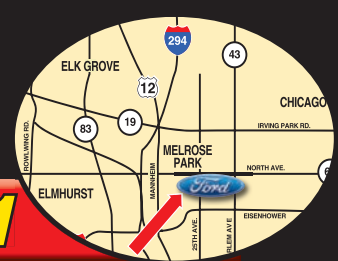

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HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE SNOOK-MAS

'Jersey Shore' ornament line renders cast in pure plastic bliss

Reuters

Dreaming of an orange Christmas, or at least an orange-skinned one?

Then deck your halls, and your tree, with the fake-tanned, overly coiffed and under-dressed ornament trio of Snooki, The Situation and DJ Pauly D.

The new "Jersey Shore" line from renowned glass ornament company Kurt S. Adler stands approximately 5 inches tall, and finds the MTV reality stars immortalized in plastic doing what they do best: Snooki poses in a too-short glitter dress, The Situation holds his shirt up to reveal his abs and Pauly D shows off his biceps and headphones.

The ornaments were sold on HSN earlier this month during the shopping network's "A Very Snooki Holiday Gift Special," during which the pint-size reality star sometimes known as Nicole Polizzi sold her new Snooki perfume, a line of handbags, and slippers and sunglasses. She also sold replicas of Crocodilly, the stuffed animal who has seen things no creature, stuffed or otherwise, ever should, in the "Jersey Shore" house.

A spokesperson for HSN—where the ornament trio sold for $24.95—said the complete Snooki swag line, save the handbags, sold out, with fans snapping up 8,000 pieces of merchandise in about an hour when Polizzi appeared Nov. 10.

And though HSN won't be offering the ornaments again this year, take heart: A set could be purchased recently for a mere $5.99 per ornament, or two for $10, at Walgreens.

It still feels like you're overpaying.

Meanwhile, a peculiar part of the "Jersey Shore" ornaments packaging is the warning on the bottom of the box: "This is a decorative article, not a toy or intended for use by a child under 14."

Even the plastic Snooki is rated PG-13.

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$41.95 at pressurepositive.com

Moon: "Especially good for releasing tightened knots in those areas difficult to massage by yourself, such as the shoulder blade region, base of the skull and low back. I love using it on my calf muscles and feet as well."
We thought: Relieves pain well, discrete to use while sitting at work.

Back Roller
$29.95 at bodyback.com

Moon: "Lie on a yoga mat with your knees up to keep pressure off of the low back. Because it's wood, it can be inflexible. Be careful if you have kyphosis, lordosis or scoliosis (severe spine curvatures)."
We thought: Ouch! Too painful.

BILL HOGAN / TRIBUNE

Body Back Sticks Percussion Massagers
$11.95 at bodyback.com

Moon: "Can be used for light tapotement (percussive strokes) over muscles to increase circulation, penetrate deep muscular tissues and energize the nervous system."
We thought: Fun, but for back pain it's better if someone else taps on you.

Original Body Stick
$43.50 at protherapysupplies.com

Moon: "The spindles that roll independently over your muscles, and the flexibility of the stick, make it easier on your body than some of the others."
We thought: The movement, like a rolling pin, is gentler than the Backnobber and feels good. A little awkward to use on your back because you have to engage your muscles to roll it there.

The Grid
$39.99 at tptherapy.com

Moon: "Great for deep tissue self-massage. Be sure it is safe for you to use. It does get in quite deep, and you have to use your body weight to maneuver this tool, so it can cause stress on various muscles and other body parts."
We thought: Feels good on the back, but it hurts quite a bit on iliotibial (IT) bands on outer thighs.

Two tennis balls in a sock DIY massage
Free if you have these items

Moon: "The balls should straddle the spine, resting on the muscles and not on the spine itself. Helps to relax the muscles that support and rotate the spine. I suggest extreme caution for those with severe curvatures of the spine."
We thought: Similar to the Back Roller but less painful. Nice to lean back on while sitting at your desk.

DIY MASSAGES

Put your back into it—or your hands, depending on which method of muscle relief you prefer

Chicago Tribune

For many aching backs, getting a professional massage is an infrequent luxury, leaving relief from muscle kinks and tension to the generous, if unreliable, hands of loved ones.

And so, barring such kindness, as one often must, we can knead our own knots using self-massage tools.

Many of these tools, such as the Original Backnobber, apply direct and sustained pressure to trigger points, which are hyperirritable spots on taut muscle that are painful upon compression. The sensitive spots, thought to be caused by overuse of the muscle, can radiate pain to other areas, cause muscle weakness and restrict range of motion.

Others, such as the Original Body Stick or The Grid, roll over surrounding muscle and connective tissue (fascia) as well as trigger and reflex points, which helps loosen the whole area.

"The combination of both is what you really want to do," said massage therapist Maureen Moon, who is based in Boulder, Colo. "Roll around the muscle on the fascia first, then do some trigger points, then go back to the rolling."

As a general guideline, Moon recommends using self-massagers every three days or so, and it helps to apply ice and soak in a hot Epsom-salt bath for 20 minutes each before and after the massage. Have a trigger-point chart on hand so you know where to focus.

If possible, it helps to still see a licensed massage therapist on a regular basis to identify and address the most relevant muscle systems, Moon said.

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A recent study finds that chewing gum daily may have no effect on losing weight. TRIBUNE FILE

Gulp! Chewing gum may not equal weight loss

Los Angeles Times

Some people chew sugar-free gum as a weight loss strategy, but does it work? A recent online study in the journal Obesity finds that chewing gum daily may have no effect on losing weight.

The eight-week study included 201 overweight or obese adults, about half of whom were randomly put in an intervention group and told to chew gum daily for at least 90 minutes at specific times throughout the day. The others were part of a control group that did not chew gum. Both groups were given nutritional information and told to continue their regular activity programs.

By the end of the study there were no significant changes in weight or body mass index in either group. Waist circumference and blood pressure decreased slightly in both groups, but by about the same amount.

In a questionnaire taken by those in the gum group, there was moderate agreement that chewing gum diminished snack cravings and helped them stay on their diets and cut back on eating after meals and late at night.

In the study, which was funded by a grant from the Wrigley Science Institute, the authors noted that longer studies may be needed to see if gum chewing has any "likely subtle effects" on body weight and health.

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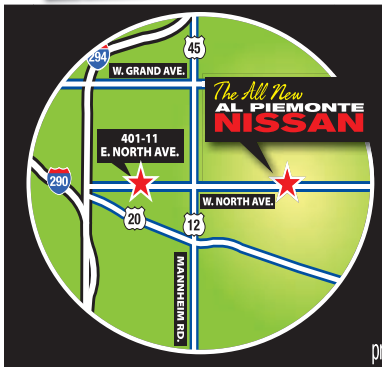

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Kutcher and Moore
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Divorce is bad for your health

Los Angeles Times

It's officially over: Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher are splitsville. Moore, 49, and Kutcher, 33, had been married six years.

Moore released a statement in which she said, "As a woman, a mother and a wife there are certain values and vows that I hold sacred, and it is in this spirit that I have chosen to move forward with my life."

Divorce is a heavy subject to contemplate, and it comes with health consequences as well. According to a 2006 study published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, middle-aged women who are divorced are 60 percent more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than their married counterparts. Divorce didn't seem to worsen the outlook for men—though that may just be due to the fact that they start dealing with heart disease at a much earlier age than women.

In any case, a 2011 study presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting showed that women tend to gain weight after marriage, but men put on the pounds after divorce.

Unhappy marriages, however, don't do much good for your health either. According to a 2006 study in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, "marital strain accelerates the typical decline in self-rated health that occurs over time" and "this adverse effect is greater at older ages." That's partly because such strain is a source of stress, which can weaken the immune system, among other things. These seemed about as true for men as for women.

But whether getting married or divorced, it should be noted from the 2011 study, both sexes generally seemed to gain weight in a period of marital change. That's likely because both men and women deal with financial strain, stress and other challenges in the wake of such events.

On top of all those pressing issues, Moore may have to deal with her Twitter handle too.

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TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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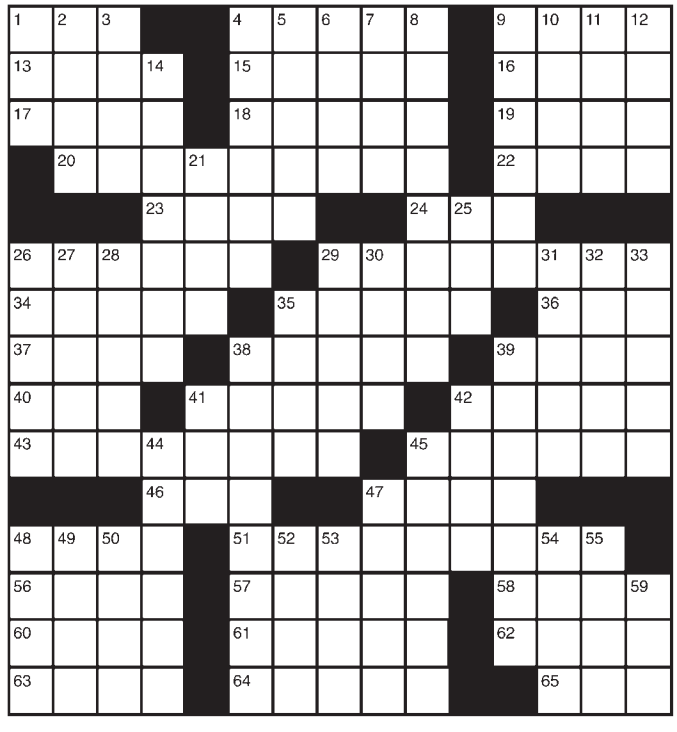

ACROSS
1 Get-up-and-go
4 Discontinue
9 Actor Jannings
13 Thing
15 Refuge
16 City in Nevada
17 Beige shade
18 Boot out
19 Pealed
20 One-_; 1%
22 Additionally
23 "The 12 _ of Christmas"
24 Competed, as for an office
26 Sell directly to the consumer
29 Wanders
34 _ the score; catches up
35 _ up; count
36 11/11 honoree
37 Hair on a lion's neck
38 Like a wry sense of humor
39 Coffin stand
40 Wedding words
41 Malicious looks
42 Light wood ideal for rafts
43 Dish marinated in soy sauce
45 Football shirt
46 TV's Skelton
47 Apparel
48 Make over
51 Amuse
56 Tehran's nation
57 More modern
58 Highway
60 Womanizer's glance
61 Wipe away
62 Twisted
63 _ the line; obeyed
64 Gave medicine to
65 Part of a blackjack

DOWN
1 Dessert choice
2 Engrave
3 Nation in South America
4 Tiegs or Ladd
5 Roof edges
6 Gung ho
7 Religious splinter group
8 Hold spellbound
9 Trip to the bank or store, e.g.
10 Lunch or dinner
11 Travel lodges
12 Company's symbol
14 Commonplace
21 Speaker's platform
25 Hardly _; very few
26 Send in one's payment
27 Steer clear of
28 Singing voice
29 New Zealand Polynesian
30 Building wings
31 Misfortunes
32 Actress Della
33 Homeless dog
35 Journey
38 Benumbed
39 Bush or Boxer
41 Caustic soap ingredient
42 Lahr or Parks
44 Pressed
45 Jolted
47 Birds that fly in a V
48 Hilarious fellow
49 Thus
50 Valley
52 Pianist Peter
53 It was, in poetry
54 Des Moines, _
55 Drug agent
59 Recolor

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1765: Frederick County, Md., repudiated the British Stamp Act.
1889: The first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale saloon.
1971: The People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

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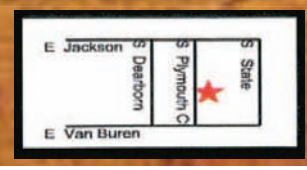

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THANKS, HOLLYWOOD

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

You'll probably be giving thanks for all kinds of awesome things in your life Thursday while gathered around the table with friends, family and your sister's weird foreign-exchange-student roommate. That's why we're here to give thanks for all the pop-culture stuff you can't bring up without looking like a jerk. It's been an exciting year in celebrity land—here are some of our favorites. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA; GETTY IMAGES, MCT PHOTOS

WEDDINGS

Here came the Kardashian ... and there she went. The 72-day fiasco that was Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries was soaked in oodles of hilarious/heartbreaking tidbits, and damn us if we didn't eat it all up. But this storybook romance isn't the only wedding we're thankful for this year. 2011 also brought us Kate and Wills' big day, and with it, Pippa Middleton's butt. We also would be remiss to omit "Bridesmaids," the best movie about a wedding that showed more diarrhea than "I do's."

VAMPIRES

Try as we might to ignore them, our fanged friends are here to stay for a while, so we'd might as well have some fun with them. And we'll admit, the phenomenon that is Robsten is pretty adorable on the red carpet when they're not trying to be all shady about their relationship. "Twilight" fever aside, this year also brought the demise of one of America's creepiest vampire husband, Marc Anthony. Flap away, strange bat man!

PREGNANCIES

First and most importantly, Babyoncè. We haven't been this excited about someone's stomach since ... well, we'll get to the shirtless men soon. But we're almost as happy for Beyoncè and Jay-Z as we are tickled by this whole is-Justin-Bieber-a-babydaddy situation. Given how calm Selena Gomez is acting, we're gonna guess Maury Povich will determine the Biebs is NOT the father.

SHIRTLESS MEN

Yes, yes, we're always thankful for this. But it's been a banner year in the world of buff dudes. Let's recap, shall we? Chris Evans in "Captain America," Ryan Gosling in "Crazy, Stupid, Love," half the cast of "True Blood," Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton in "Warrior," Michael Fassbender in "Shame" ... we could go on, but whatever CTA vehicle you're on probably is warm enough already. And oh look, here comes 2012 with the man-stripper flick "Magic Mike."

Sweaters.

Meet Becca.
She's a natural blonde from Norway, about to begin a year abroad studying Art History in Paris. She is wearing the Oversized Fisherman Turtleneck Sweater.

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"I still love drinking alcohol, so not yet."
— **Katy Perry**, to "The Insider," denying rumors that she is pregnant

THE DIGIT

$799

That's the price of the official replica of the wedding dress form "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1," **eonline.com** reports. The dress, modeled off a design by Carolina Herrera, is being sold by Alfred Angelo. No word on whether it'll make your marriage as immortal as Bella and Edward's.

J.R. Martinez

Dancing king

First the Kim Kardashian divorce news—now this? Rob Kardashian lost to J.R. Martinez in the "Dancing With the Stars" finale Tuesday. Martinez, an Iraq War veteran and "All My Children" actor, won with partner Karina Smirnoff. Ricki Lake finished in third place.

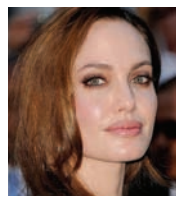
Questlove
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

WHERE'S THE LOVE?

Questlove has a question: Will you forgive him? The Roots drummer apologized Tuesday after the "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" house band played the song "Lyin' Ass Bitch" when Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann appeared on the talk show Monday. Looks like someone won't be getting any presidential perks if Bachmann gets elected.

NPH: Ladies' man

There's nothing like being an openly gay man to woo the ladies. "It's easier for me to flirt with girls now that girls know that I'm gay," Neil Patrick Harris told Details magazine. "It almost makes it a sexier encounter than if I was trying to pretend that I was straight."



'Bad girl'

Just because **Angelina Jolie** has settled down with Brad Pitt doesn't mean she's gone soft. "I'm still a bad girl. I still have that side of me," she tells "60 Minutes" in an interview to air Sunday, according to **people.com**. "It's just in its place now. ... It belongs to Brad."

WANT MORE DIRT? Oh, we've got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TV-ers all day long at **redeyechicago.com/redhots**.

FINAL WEEK!
SEE *ANN* BEFORE IT GOES TO BROADWAY